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Power in union?

Political rivals consider teaming up at County Hall

EXCLUSIVE by Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

OUR political landscape could see a major shift following next month's county council elections after two of the main parties revealed they could unite to provide genuine opposition to the dominant Conservatives.

The local leaders of the Labour Party, Gordon Cowan, and Liberal Democrats, Trudy Dean, said if both parties gain sufficient seats on May 2, they would look to hold talks about forming an opposition coalition in the corridors of power at Kent County Council.

Currently, the Conservatives have 73 seats against just 12 held by a combination of Labour, the Lib Dems, Ukip and the independents.

But with Ukip expected to erode the Tory vote, and Labour anticipating making significant gains, it could be the recipe for a far more politically vibrant County Hall.

Given the size of their current majority, the Tories seem destined to remain in control.

The only time in recent memory when KCC was not controlled by the Tories was between 1993 and 1997 when a Liberal/Labour coalition held the balance of power. However, when Medway Council split to became a unitary authority the county once more returned to being true blue.

For full story – see inside

DEATH

Cricket legend Denness dies

CRICKET fans were left in mourning after the death was announced on Friday of Kent and England legend Mike Denness.

A key player in the county's glory days of the 1970s, he was in his last week as president of the club when he died. He was 72. **PAGE 3**

SPORT

Marathon day for the brave

THOUSANDS will flock to the capital today to take part in the Virgin London Marathon.

Train operator Southeastern has laid on extra services to cope with the increased demand and those making a trip to watch the action are advised to allow extra time for their journeys. **PAGE 7**

HORTICULTURE

Race is on for Chelsea show

THE long cold winter has played havoc with gardeners looking to enter displays in the Chelsea Flower Show; staged in London next month.

Despite the warmer weather this week, some greenfingered growers say they are already some three weeks behind schedule. **PAGE 23**

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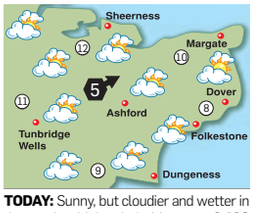

TODAY: Sunny, but cloudier and wetter in the evening. Light winds. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F). **TONIGHT:** Cloudy with patchy rain. Min temp 0-3C (32-37F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	08.24	5.3	20.51	5.6
Margate	09.14	3.9	21.42	4.0
St Mary's	01.48	4.4	14.24	4.5

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 13C	Min 7C
Tuesday	Max 16C	Min 6C
Wednesday	Max 18C	Min 6C
Thursday	Max 15C	Min 6C
Friday	Max 13C	Min 4C
Saturday	Max 15C	Min 9C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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EDUCATION

Labour sparks political row over cost of repairs needed during the coming years to our schools

By Marijke Cox
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SCHOOLS in Kent are facing a backlog of repairs costing a staggering £141 million, according to new figures.

But whether it's leaking roofs or major structural work, many are facing a long wait before repairs are carried out.

Figures released under a Freedom of Information request made by the Labour Party show the most urgent works – classed as category D and those which need to be completed within 12 months to ensure health and safety is met – will cost £6.7m.

For category A, where work must be carried out in five years or more; category B, work completed in three to five years; and category C, completed in two years, combined costs come to a massive £134m.

Education chiefs at County Hall said the figures did not take into account money given directly to academies to pay for repairs.

But Labour leader on Kent County Council, Gordon Cowan, told KoS the repair bill was "bad news for schools".

"Our children deserve to go to well maintained schools, they deserve a school environment that inspires and motivates them – they do not deserve shoddy, poorly maintained school buildings," he said.

"Many of these schools were due to get funding for repairs from the Labour government's Building Schools for the Future programme, but the Conservative-led Government abandoned the scheme.

"The situation is a disgrace and Tory-led Kent County Council has done nothing to pursue the cause to get the schools in a good state of repair for today's pupils and those in the future."

But cabinet member for education at KCC, Mike Whiting, told this newspaper the £141m was an "erroneous" figure.

He stressed that schools that had become academies – which are no longer under local authority control – had access to other funds for repairs from either central Government or sponsors which KCC was not even aware of.

"A lot of schools that become academies end up getting their own budget for repairs," he said.

"I'm aware some schools got £5m for replacing mobiles. A lot of money comes to academies that we don't know about, so this £141m figure is not accurate.

"I know of an academy that just got £100,000 to repair a roof.

"There's a lot more money that goes through KCC's books to pay for repairs for schools and we're committed to making sure they are carried out."

He stressed that a large portion of the £141m was for repairs needed in the next two to five years and not urgent safety-related repairs.

"I think the £141m figure is erroneous," he added.

A Department for Education spokesman said the Government was spending £6 billion over the course of this parliament on school maintenance.

"We are undertaking a nationwide survey of 24,000 schools so we can help those that need it most," he said.

"We are spending more on improving existing schools and building new ones in this parliament than the previous government spent in its first two parliaments combined – £18bn."

HEALTH AND SAFETY: The most urgent work needed is said to be worth £6.7m

THE FIGURES

Category A
taking five years to complete
£22.2m

Category B
three to five years to complete
£56.5m

Category C
two years to complete
£56.5m

Category D
urgent, taking 12 months
£6.7m

HISTORY

In 2003, the Labour government introduced its £55bn Building Schools for the Future project to improve every secondary school in the country, either by refurbishment or a complete rebuild.

Kent's overall programme – the largest building scheme in Europe – was worth an estimated £1.8bn.

Eleven schools were rebuilt or refurbished, but the scheme was axed under the Coalition.

Forty Kent schools preparing for refurbishment were told it wouldn't happen – leaving some crumbling while others boasted new state-of-the-art facilities.

KCC took legal action against the Government, stating the way it scrapped BSF was unfair and unlawful, the action was successful.

Last year, the Government announced the Priority School Building Programme and a £2bn budget for work to be carried out on chosen schools over five years.

In Kent, 14 schools were selected – many of them primary – but others were left disappointed.

One of those was Hartsdown Technology College, which was dealt a double blow after seeing its BSF scheme scrapped, despite being in advanced stages, and then missing out on the latest funding.

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MAPS

Scents and the city are academic for designer

By Joe Bill
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IN A world of sat navs and smart phones, there is little need for an old fashioned map these days, even less so a good sense of direction.

And as far as using your nose to sniff out some good food and drink, it's unlikely society will resort to going back to the basics.

But a Kent-based academic is using exactly that to map out famous cities, including Edinburgh, Paris, Glasgow and Manchester – and her hometown of Canterbury is next on the list.

Kate McLean, a senior graphic design tutor at Canterbury Christ Church University, is creating a series of 'smell maps', plotting major cities using only her nose.

Going on 'smell walks' with local people, Ms McLean records dominant, lingering scents in the places she visits.

She then bottles the recorded smells and places them at the appropriate place on the map.

The designer, who sold her last piece to the National Library of Scotland, said: "I love the exploration and discovery of smell mapping.

"When other kids had posters of pop groups on their walls, I had charts depicting world circumnavigations by famous explorers from Erikson and Magellan to Cook.

"During the past 15 years I have travelled to many places and become increasingly interested in cities, exploring and recalling them in unexpected ways.

"I find smells and scents compelling in that they have a power to evoke the ambience and atmosphere of specific places and times."

Ms McLean, who has been lecturing at Christ Church for the past two years, collects her smells in different ways, from scooping up greasy chip paper covered in salt and vinegar, to using distillation methods to produce the scent of a public toilet.

The collected information is reproduced on a colour-coded guide representing the smells and areas of each city.

Ms McLean, the only British cartographer to explore smell mapping, adds: "Those stories are personal but also location-specific. I simply chose to combine smells and maps to create new smell maps of cities worldwide."

Ms McLean is intending to create Canterbury's very own smell map as she studies to gain her PhD in September.

But will it be the whiff of tourists' packed lunches in the Old Buttermarket or the scent of cut grass in Dane John Gardens that most tickles the snout?

"I want to involve students at Canterbury Christ Church University, the community and various interest groups to decipher what the city smells like and if those smells spark any memories from people's childhood or events in their lives," she added.

But before that, her current work will be on show at the Sidney Cooper Art Gallery in Canterbury until April 27.

SHE NOSE: Kate with one of her smell maps

CRICKET

Kent star Denness dies

FORMER Kent and England cricket captain, Mike Denness, has died. He was 72.

He passed away in what was the last week of his presidency at the club following a brave fight against cancer.

Kent supporters will remember him most for the six domestic trophies he secured as captain between 1972 and 1976 – the John Player League three times, the Benson and Hedges Cup twice, and the Gillette Cup in 1974.

For a full obituary see www.kentnews.co.uk.

ENTERTAINMENT

Tarrant at big match

RADIO and TV star Chris Tarrant got a taste of being a sports commentator on Thursday evening when he reported on Ebbsfleet United's match against Luton Town.

He was in the press box reporting for BBC Radio 5 Live as part of Radio 2's Voice season. Not that he brought any luck to Stonebridge Road. Ebbsfleet, relegated last weekend, lost 2-0.

INVESTIGATION

Human remains found

FORENSIC teams are trying to identify human remains found in woodland near Canterbury.

A member of the public made the grisly discovery of bones in Kimberland Wood, near Sturry, on Thursday.

FOOD

Crackdown on ice cream sellers

AS THE sun finally pokes its head out of the clouds, an army of ice cream vans will be set to take to the county's streets – closely followed by a squad of environmental health officials.

They will look to get tough on health risks posed by microbes that can sometimes be found living in soft ice cream – and the equipment used to serve it up.

Both traditional ice cream vans and shops will be inspected.

It is feared the long winter may have left ice cream gear idle longer than usual, and potentially become a breeding ground for bugs.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is the first to announce the routine random testing of vendors, in a scheme that is being rolled out across the whole county in coming weeks.

The officers won't taste any of the ice cream itself. Instead, random samples will be taken for microbiological testing to check that they meet hygiene and safety standards.

Jane Heeley, chief environmental health officer at Tonbridge council, said: "We want to ensure that all soft ice creams are as good as they look before the summer trade begins.

"Thankfully, most vendors are doing a great job of keeping their machines clean and storing their ice cream properly but this sampling programme aims to ensure that everyone meets the hygiene and safety standards required."

Councils carry out a whole variety of strict food sampling programmes throughout the year to ensure food is safe for consumers.

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TRANSPORT

Towers back on road map

AFTER all the controversy following its closure to traffic, vehicles once again started driving through Canterbury's historic Westgate Towers this week.

It follows the end of a year-long trial period which saw the road through the 14th century tower closed off to vehicles and traffic diverted elsewhere in a bid to cut pollution and protect the building.

EDUCATION

Free school plans on show

A DRAFT masterplan of a proposed free school in the village of Wye, near Ashford, will be made public this week.

It forms part of a public consultation into plans to create a secondary school based in buildings owned by Imperial College London and left empty since 2009. It goes on show between Friday and Saturday at the Kempe Centre at Olantigh Road.

WEATHER

Road chiefs say snow chaos was 'managed well' despite outcry

By Joe Bill
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HIGHWAY bosses have deemed their winter roads service a "success" despite seemingly being caught unawares after snow showers ground the east of the county to a halt last month.

Kent County Council's highways and transportation winter review report, due to be discussed at County Hall on Tuesday, found the colder months to have been "managed well" even though hundreds of motorists became trapped in snow and crashed on icy roads during the unusual spring blizzard.

The report, put together by cabinet member for highways Bryan Sweetland and transport director John Burr, evaluated the two "emergencies" that occurred over January 18-20 and March 11-12.

An emergency is deemed to be when more than 50mm of snow is expected to fall across the county.

SNOW JOKE: March blizzards

The report says: "Overall this season's winter service has been successful with many compliments received by members of the public and organisations and businesses. The two emergencies were managed well though it is acknowledged that difficulties did occur during the second one and steps are being taken to review this."

But motorist Dave Hobday, who found his 45 minute journey home to Ramsgate take 10 hours in March, was less complimentary: "As far as I am concerned, they messed up."

COUNTY ELECTIONS

Could a 'super coalition' offer real opposition to Tory control at County Hall?

Ahead of the forthcoming local elections plans are afoot for Labour and Lib Dems to combine and challenge Conservative dominance of KCC

By Marijke Cox
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LABOUR and the Liberal Democrats look set to team up and form a fierce coalition opposition if the Conservatives once again rule over County Hall after next month's local elections.

The Tory Party current dominates Kent County Council with 73 seats compared to a total of just 12 held by the other parties combined.

And while it is nigh-on impossible to forsee the Conservatives being ousted, a 'super coalition' formed by opposition parties could, at least, bring some pressure to bear on the existing power base.

Both Labour leader Gordon Cowan and Lib Dem leader Trudy Dean said it was possible the two parties could join forces if they separately gain enough seats on May 2 to create "genuine opposition" for the dominant Tories.

Currently, the Liberal Democrats hold just seven seats, Labour three, Ukip one and one independent.

But, if Labour make progress by reclaiming those seats lost the last time the county went to the polls in 2009, it could go some way towards balancing the council chambers.

It would also throw up the fascinating prospect of a national coalition of the Tories and Lib Dems dictating on a local level to a Conservative Party opposed by a Lib/Lab coalition.

"A stronger opposition is always better," said Cllr Cowan, who is confident his party can win back the 19 seats lost in the 2009 elections.

"We would look at potential parties, like the Lib Dems, to see if we feel as though together we could get resolutions which would be better for people in Kent.

"That is what it's all about; sitting down and talking about what we can do together.

"Over the last four years there have been motions where the Lib Dems have supported us and when we've supported them.

"A stronger opposition would mean some things we believe are good for the people of Kent are pushed through when the Tories would rather they were not."

Lib Dem leader Cllr Dean – who also feels confident her party will gain more seats – would not be drawn into making election predictions, but said there could be an opposition coalition.

"I can't see Labour winning outright to take control of the council; that's never happened in its history," she said.

"But it's possible there could be an opposition coalition."

Alongside the three main parties, Ukip is beginning to emerge as a credible contender with predictions the party could win votes from disillusioned Conservative supporters.

Its leader Nigel Farage, from Westerham near Sevenoaks, would not rule out forming an opposition coalition with Labour and the Lib Dems, although he admitted it was not something he had thought about.

"It would depend on policy and what it would help us as a party to achieve," he said.

"This is not something we've so far considered or debated. Our main priority is to get representation on the council."

This year Ukip is emerging as one of the major parties, fielding candidates for 74 seats – a 56 per cent rise from the 27 it fought in the 2009 county council election.

The right-wing party comes ahead of the Lib Dems in terms of candidate numbers, with the latter dropping to become the fourth largest party, fielding 70 hopefuls for 83 per cent of the seats.

But its looks as though Ukip is hot on the tail

IN NUMBERS

402	total number of candidates across county
15	number of different parties represented
84	total number of seats up for grabs on KCC
100%	number of seats contested by the Tories
99%	number of seats contested by Labour/Labour Co-operative
83%	number of seats contested by the Lib Dems
88%	number of seats contested by Ukip

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HISTORY SHOWS HOW KENT HAS FAVOURED BEING BLUE

KENT County Council has been dominated by the Conservative Party throughout its history.

But in living memory they have not always had it their own way.

In 1993, the Liberals and Labour polled enough votes to join forces and create a coalition. It meant during 1993 and 1997 the council was headed by joint leaders: John Ovenden of Labour and Allison Wainman for the Liberals.

The county council was originally formed as a result of the Local Government Act of 1888, which was passed by Lord Salisbury's Conservative government.

Its aim was to hand over administrative duties to elected representatives, whereas previously they had been undertaken by appointed magistrates who performed them in addition to their judicial role.

Throughout the 1950s and 60s the Tories dominated power at County Hall.

In the 1973 election they won 63 seats compared to Labour's 31, seven for the Liberals and two independents. Although their majority fluctuated slightly, they continued in power until the election of 1993.

Then, they obtained 40 seats with Labour on 30 and the Liberals on 29. So a coalition was formed and the Conservatives were forced into opposition.

But while 1997 saw Tony Blair sweep to power nationally, Sir Sandy Bruce-Lockhart led his local Conservative group back into power at County Hall, winning 46 seats, double that of Labour, with the Liberal Democrats on 15.

Labour's presence was hit as Medway broke away to become a unitary authority, a reorganisation which saw the number of KCC councillors dip from 99 to 84.

Four years later the Conservatives gained six more seats and a further one in 2005, when the leadership passed to current leader Cllr Paul Carter.

of the Tories and some predict the party could loosen the Conservative's grip on Kent.

Ukip's county chairman Mo Eleanor said the party's target areas are Tunbridge Wells, Ashford, Dartford, Swale and Margate West.

But the Tories, which have retained a stronghold over the council throughout its history, are almost certain to retain the majority in traditionally true blue Kent.

The Lib Dems are confident they can make headway in winning back local votes following the collapse in support after the Government coalition was formed.

This year, the Green Party has increased the number of candidates fighting for seats from 41 in 2009 to 43 this year.

Their key seats are Tonbridge, Canterbury South West and Maidstone Central.

Assessing the party's chances, spokesman for Kent Green Party, Steve Dawe, said: "Our best possibilities are Tonbridge, due to splitting of the Conservative vote by Ukip; Canterbury South West, due to the collapsing Lib Dem vote in an area where voters seem more likely to switch to Green than Labour given low Labour votes in this division; and Maidstone Central, due to consistent Green Party efforts in this area, similar to those in Tonbridge, but also as a result of declining Lib Dem support and a total eclipse of Labour votes throughout Maidstone."

■ **The Kent County Council elections take place on Thursday, May 2.**

HEALTH

NSPCC's 'disturbing' find prompts tough response from welfare chief

By Marijke Cox
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SOCIAL care chiefs at County Hall have defended their work in keeping vulnerable children safe after a charity pointed out the "disturbing" level of at-risk youngsters in Kent.

The backlash came after a warning by the NSPCC stating that while there were fewer children dying through assault or suicide, there was still a high level – 953 – under child protection plans, one of the highest numbers in the country.

The number in Medway is 346, so the total for the county is 1,299.

But cabinet member for specialist children's services at Kent County Council, Jenny Whittle, said using the 953 figure was a "crude assessment".

She said: "The NSPCC is looking at this number and just seeing a high figure – but KCC is the size of about 10 London boroughs.

"When taking into account the size of the authority and putting this into context, the number of children under child protection plans is actually lower than the national average."

Cllr Whittle said there is also a number of areas of deprivation in Kent, where the likelihood of children being at risk is higher. She said: "If you look at Thanet or parts of Swale, they have more child protection plans than in west Kent."

POLICING

Police tsar in firing line

KENT'S Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes continues to be the focus of a fierce campaign of criticism by national newspaper the Daily Mail in the aftermath of the Paris Brown Twitter debacle.

The newspaper this week criticised her spending £15,000 on the Ann Force One bus. Mrs Barnes argues, however, that it makes her more accessible to the people of Kent.

CRIME

Pensioner knife ordeal

A BRAVE 83-year-old man showed "great courage" when refusing to let two vicious thugs into his Lympne home – even when threatened with a knife.

The pensioner found two men in his garden last Sunday at 3.30pm. They then tried to get into his house, but the man stood his ground.

Police said he showed "great courage" and are appealing for information.

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MARATHON

Runners will not be derailed by Boston tragedy

Joe Bill finds out about the preparations to ensure thousands of runners get to the race on time

THE tragic events in Boston earlier this week are not expected to deter thousands of runners and spectators from the county flooding into the capital this weekend to take part in the Virgin London Marathon.

The 26-mile race will see nearly 40,000 people take part – including a blend of elite athletes and fun runners.

Southeastern will be putting on extra trains to cope with the influx of passengers, with congestion particularly expected around the start line in Blackheath and close to main spectator points on the route.

Spokesman for Southeastern, Alison Nolan, said: "Sunday will be a busy day across the rail network. We'll be running extra trains from Kent and south east London to get runners up into London in time for the start of the race.

"Blackheath, Greenwich and Maze Hill stations will be especially busy, and we recommend runners allow plenty of time to make their journeys."

Among those competiting will be TV presenter and former Bucks Fizz star Cheryl Baker, 59, who lives in Tunbridge Wells. It will be her second marathon – the first of which she described as "torture".

Running with an old school friend, she will be raising money for Sittingbourne-based children's hospice Demelza.

She said: "I did it once before and training was great – but this time it's been hell because of the weather."

The singer said she ranks the feeling of running down The Mall finishing her first marathon alongside winning the Eurovision song contest in 1981.

■ **See www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/ for details of train services.**

BOMB ATTACK

"It sounded like a canon and the whole city shook."

That is how Sarah Yaggi, 29, from Broadstairs, described the moment she heard the first bomb detonate at the Boston Marathon. Mrs Yaggi, who now lives in Boston, provides an emotional insight into the chaos which spilled on to the streets after the two bombs exploded near the finishing line, killing three people, published in full on our website.

To read her full account, see the blogs section of our website at www.kentnews.co.uk.

LONDON MARATHON IN NUMBERS

167,449 applications received for the 2013 race

48,323 applications accepted for this year's race

37,000 maximum expected to run this weekend

£52.8m amount raised for charity during the 2012 race

£610m amount raised for charity since it started in 1981

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HEALTH

Is new patient advice line to blame for rise in A&E admissions?

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

FINGERS are being pointed at the new NHS 111 phone number as a contributing factor to an unprecedented surge on the county's hospitals earlier this month.

The amount of patients flooding into the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in Margate, William Harvey in Ashford and Kent and Canterbury hospitals reached such high levels that a "major incident procedure" was implemented. This measure is normally only put into action following a major incident such as a motorway pile-up or train crash.

But some local GPs say the new telephone service, which replaces NHS Direct, is "risk averse" and therefore directed callers – who could have received adequate treatment from their GP or minor injury unit – to accident and emergency departments.

Operators of the new 111 phoneline, which is being phased in over the coming months, the South East Coast Ambulance Service Trust (SECAmb), would neither confirm nor deny the suggestions when we put the claims to it.

Chair of the Kent Local Medical Committee, an organisiation representing GPs, Dr Stephen Meech, told medical publication GP: "The biggest change recently, locally, has been NHS 111, which we know is somewhat risk averse and will tend to refer to A&E cases which, if they went through to the out-of-hours service, would probably be given some advice and told to see their GP in the next day or two if things don't improve."

CCGs nationally and the British Medical Association have called for a halt to the NHS 111 service until it has been "rigorously tested" and "assurances can be given that patients will receive appropriate advice".

But SECAmb has defended the NHS 111 facility, stating it is still in the very early stages of implementation in the area.

A trust spokesman said: "We must recognise that this is a new service for the public and we are still learning about the different reasons why patients access the service and the most appropriate ways for us to respond to their needs.

"We recognise there is a need for improvement, which is why we are working closely with commissioners to resolve any issues."

SECamb also said there were explanations for the longer call-back times with patients not always answering the phone at the first attempt. One report suggested a man, believed to be from the county, had to wait 11 hours for a call back.

The spokesman said: "Patient safety is our number one priority which may account for longer than average call back times for our region.

"SECAmb is contracted to undertake three attempts to call back a patient. These are all included in the call back time data whether they are successful or not. If no one answers on these attempts and we feel it is important for us to speak to the patient because of the nature of their call, we will leave that call in the queue for a clinician to try again later on. These are also included in the overall call back time.

"We are looking to establish whether the data we are providing for this is in line with other organisations."

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

OVERWHELMED: Kent and Canterbury Hospital was one of the places affected

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HISTORY

Event to commemorate bravery of Dambusters

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

DIGNITARIES will gather at Kings Hill next month for a special service to mark the 70th anniversary of the Dambusters.

Today a major residential and business hub, the site was previously better known as RAF West Malling – a vital air base during the conflict.

It has close ties with the Dambusters raid, which saw the deployment of Sir Barnes Wallis' 'bouncing bombs' to destroy the dam in Germany's Ruhr Valley.

Not only were the bombs tested off the north Kent coast, but the mission's squadron commander, Guy Gibson, served with 29 Squadron which was based at RAF West Malling in 1941/42.

Wing Commander Gibson was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery during the raid, code named Operation Chastise (see box top right), and a wreath will be laid alongside the Running Airman sculpture (pictured), which commemorates the aviation past of Kings Hill.

The statue was unveiled in 2002 by actor Richard Todd who played Guy Gibson in the 1955 film The Dam Busters.

The special service will take place on May 16.

Group Captain Patrick Tootal, whose idea it was to organise the commemoration, explained: "The Dambusters 617 Squadron Royal Air Force was based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire but because of Guy Gibson's connections with RAF West Malling we wanted to mark the occasion."

In addition to a service of commemoration, there will be a Spitfire flypast over the Control Tower – a landmark where aircrew were guided in and out of the airfield during the conflict.

Organised by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and supported by Kings Hill developer Liberty Property Trust UK Ltd, the event will be led by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Viscount De L'Isle MBE. It is open to all.

Guests are asked to assemble at 12.30pm by the sculpture for a 1pm start.

The flypast will be at 2pm – the best viewing spot will be from the piazza between the Control Tower and Waitrose.

WHAT WAS OPERATION CHASTISE?

Carried out on May 16-17, 1943, the raid deployed Barnes Wallis' bouncing bombs to attack German dams.

British authorities had identified the Ruhr Valley as heavily industrialised, playing a key role in both generating hydro-electricity and provding the water for steel-making. As such, it was a key strategic target.

Any air raid would need to be done with remarkable accuracy in the face of enemy defences, which military chiefs feared would be impossible. The bouncing bombs, which skimmed across the water's surface, however, solved the problem.

The Möhne and Edersee Dams were breached, causing catastrophic flooding of the Ruhr Valley and of villages in the Eder Valley, the Sorpe dam was also slightly damaged.

The drum-shaped bombs worked by being dropped at low altitude while spinning backwards. They bounced over the torpedo nets before reaching the dam wall. The residual spin would then see the bomb run down to the base of the dam, underwater, before detonating.

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HISTORY

County town 'dinosaur' recognises one of world's greatest discoveries

Nick Ames looks into reason behind Maidstone having a prehistoric creature on its coat of arms

FOR anyone fascinated with an era during which dinosaurs roamed the Earth, the Natural History Museum in London has long been a Mecca.

Its extensive dinosaur displays give a sense of the sheer size and scale of these magnificent creatures.

Indeed, time your run on a busy day and the queue simply to access the exhibition will snake out of the room and into the imposing central hall; dominated by the famous replica skeleton of a full-size diplodocus.

But what many visitors overlook, as they enter the dinosaur section, is that a rather unassuming slab of rock which forms part of the display is in fact one of the most signficant finds in terms of the scientific research of the creatures.

And it was discovered in our county town of Maidstone.

Given the rather unimaginative title of the 'Maidstone slab' when it was discovered in the first half of the 19th century, it stood as the "first substantially complete" dinosaur skeleton found anywhere in the world.

GROUNDBREAKING: Gideon Mantell (left) recognised the fossilised remains (centre) found in Bensted's Quarry, near Maidstone, that now in the Natural History Museum

Ever pondered why the plant-eating iguanodon has a staring role in the county town's civic coat of arms? Then this is it.

The iguanodon, named as its teeth resemble those of an iguana, lived around 120 million years ago at a time when Kent was part of a large subtropical island dominated by wide rivers. It stood up to 13 metres in height and weighed around three tonnes when fully grown.

Its remains were recognised in 1834, by a man named Gideon Mantell who had already been responsible for finding bones and teeth from the prehistoric age.

He was part of a scientific movement which was pushing for the acceptance of the existence of monstrous beasts from past millennia – in the face of conservative opposition from an establishment which largely took the Adam and Eve story literally.

Before 1800, the word 'dinosaur', meaning terrible lizard, did not exist, but following chance discoveries which were at first thought to be the remains of elephants brought to Britain by the Romans, scientists started looking at quarries and other sites across the country to establish what the bones were.

When skeletons were reassembled and put on display – as in the Maidstone find – they drew gasps of amazement from spectators who had previously consigned such creatures to the realms of mythology.

Dr Paul Barrett, the Natural History Museum's merit researcher in paleontology, said: "The dinosaur was found in Bensted's Quarry, near Maidstone, in 1834, from rocks of around 120 million years old – from the early Cretaceous period.

"This skeleton was the first substantially complete dinosaur skeleton found anywhere in the world including bones of the limbs, hips, backbones and the impression of a tooth.

"As a result it is of great historical significance in the early understanding of dinosaur biology and anatomy.

"The specimen was bought by a group of Gideon Mantell's friends and presented to him to work on.

"It was originally part of Mantell's collection, which was later purchased by the Natural History Museum.

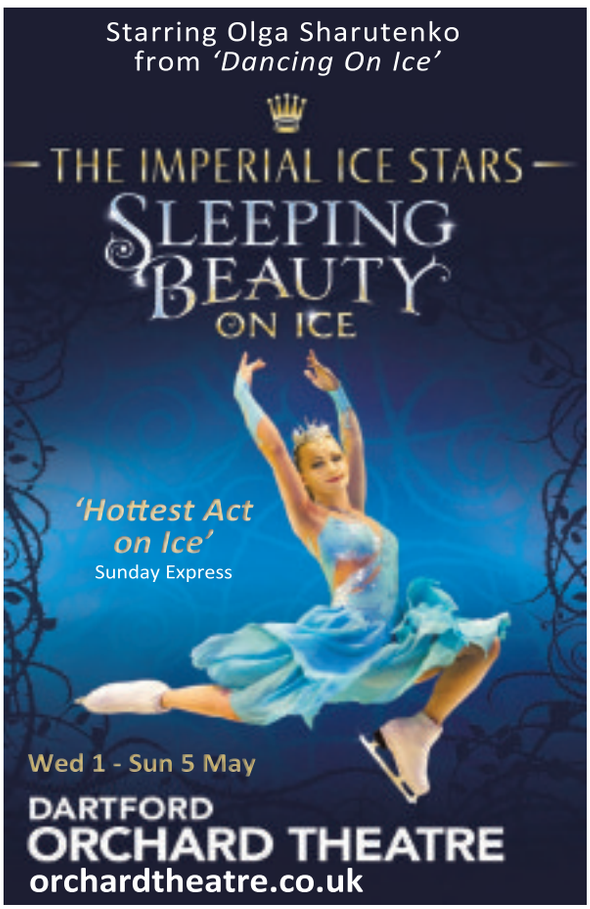
"At the time mantellisaurus was alive, southern England was a large island covered with broad meandering rivers.

"The climate was subtropical and the vegetation consisted largely of ferns, cycads and conifer trees."

The town requested an iguanodon be incorporated in the civic coat of arms in 1946.

The request was granted three years later.

Bensted's Quarry was renamed the Iguanodon Quarry, but closed in 1872, although some sections were still visible in the late 1960s. It was finally built over in the 1970s and forms what is part of the Oakwood Park complex.



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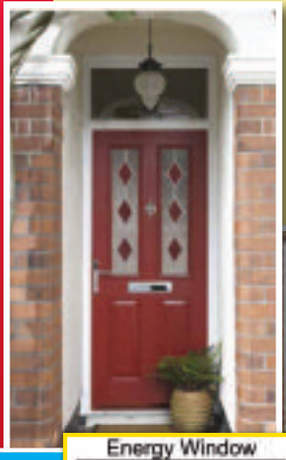

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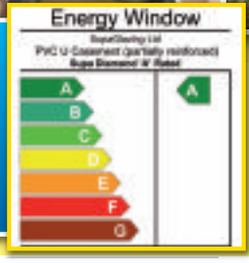

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CRIME

Duo in burglary probe

TWO men have been arrested following a burglary in Sittingbourne in the early hours of March 24.

The victim in Belmont Road, woke to hear noises and discover his car keys and car had been swiped. His vehicle was found nearby.

Police have arrested two men - aged 18 and 26 and from Chatham. Both have been bailed.

ARRESTS

Police raids nab 18

POLICE arrested 18 people following a number of early morning raids on burglary and vehicle crime suspects across north Kent.

More than £16,000 in cash was seized, as well as hauls of drugs worth thousands of pounds, by Kent Police officers executing 20 different warrants in Dartford, Gravesend, Swale and Medway on Wednesday.

CHARITY

RSPCA's power boost

THE RSPCA centre in Leybourne got a helping hand from a power company this week after a team turned up to help redecorate a kitchen and staff room, clean kennels and do some gardening.

A team of 15 from UK Power Networks carried out the work as part of its staff volunteering programme.

TELEVISION

Fired apprentice blasts Lord Sugar's 'tired' TV show format

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A FORMER contestant of hit BBC show The Apprentice says the series is now "well past its sell-by date" as it prepares to return to our television screens for a ninth series.

Maria O'Connor lasted until just the second week of last year's show before she was told by Lord Sugar that she was 'fired'.

But it hasn't derailed the businesswoman's ambition – she continues to manage her Elizavet Greek restaurant in Sandwich and says business has boomed since she was on the show.

She is not as complimentary, however, to the show which gave her her 15 minutes of fame.

She told us: "It is well past its sell-by date now. If I had the show, I would revamp it completely.

"One thing I would like to do is have fewer contestants, and let them all be project manager before anyone is fired. And the firing should be done by more than one person. When I was on the programme, the first girl who was fired was brilliant at business and really had it going on. It just doesn't seem fair."

Ms O'Connor was second to go after her team failed to win enough orders for a bizarre bath protector.

She said: "I reckon this year's series will be just like all the others, unless they have done something different, which I doubt.

"As for me, nothing much has happened. Business at the restaurant went up because more people knew me, so that was nice.

"I have done what I have always done – work hard and keep the business going. The programme was good advertising for me. I speak with a couple of the contestants from time to time, but am not close to any of them."

As for her advice to this year's contestants?

The outspoken 21-year-old said: "Just be who you are. Don't become what they want you to become. That is the best way. Don't change for anyone. Don't compromise yourself for anything. There is no point being someone you are not."

The self-confessed man-eater had promised to get Lord Sugar to fall in love with her.

It didn't work out and, before she was sacked, advisor Nick Hewer said: "She is a very noisy young woman."

Lord Sugar said: "It looks like she just wants to row. She looks a fiery person."

The former contestant also laid in to former winner Stella English, from Whitstable, for taking Lord Sugar to an industrial tribunal and losing after her work position became difficult.

She added: "She has completely killed her career. Who is going to employ her now?"

The new series is scheduled to start within the next two weeks.

CRITICAL: Maria with Lord Sugar's adviser Nick Hewer in series eight of BBC One's The Apprentice

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POLITICS

A 'very British send-off for a very British lady'

MPs pay tribute to Margaret Thatcher following a 'surprisingly simple and austere' funeral

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A LEADING Conservative MP admitted shedding some tears as he attended the funeral of Margaret Thatcher in London on Wednesday.

Thousands lined the route between Westminster and St Paul's Cathedral to bid farewell to a leader who divided public opinion during a memorable 11-year reign at Downing Street.

Sir Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North, described the service – which has drawn criticism for its estimated £10 million cost to the public purse – as "a very fitting, very patriotic and very British send-off for a very British lady".

Sir Roger was present at the cathedral service, which included the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, and had the night before paid a visit to her coffin as it lay overnight in a chapel under the House of Commons to pay his respects.

He was elected to Parliament in 1983 – at the very height of Mrs Thatcher's powers. She was PM from 1979 to 1990.

"It was a wonderful funeral," said Sir Roger. "It was delivered in a manner which this country can rise to on state occasions, unlike anywhere else in the world. There were a lot of watery eyes, including mine.

"The night before, I went to the Crypt Chapel under the House of Commons where the coffin was. It was open to members to sit quietly. It was a very peaceful occasion in a delightful place. There were only around eight people there so it felt very intimate, a complete contrast to the funeral service.

"Both occasions were, in their own way, absolutely right."

Sir Roger said he was very pleased that the day went without any significant protests.

"Mercifully it all went peacefully," he said. "I understood there were a handful of people chanting but many more lined the route and gave the old girl three cheers on her final journey.

"To anybody who says £10m is a lot of money, well, the security has to be in place and to put it into context we are still seeing the benefits of the £60 billion and rising she negotiated in the form of rebates from the European Union."

As we highlighted last week, Mrs Thatcher, who died at the age of 87, had many connections in Kent. One of which was as patron of the Tunbridge Wells Conservative Association.

MP for the town, Greg Clark, attended the funeral. He added: "The service was meticulously carried out, and despite its setting and the world's attention being on it, it was surprisingly simple, personal and austere.

"Perhaps the most moving moment was when the huge doors were opened as the coffin was carried out and the sound of three cheers from the large crowds outside filled the cathedral."

In 1950, the then Margaret Hilda Roberts took her first steps in politics in Dartford. Despite twice failing to beat the Labour candidate, she always kept a special place in her heart for the town.

Current Dartford MP, Conservative Gareth Johnson, who also attended the funeral, said: "An overwhelming number of people turned out to pay their respects to a very remarkable prime minister who transformed this country. Very few people put their name to a political ideology, yet we have Thatcherism. People will still be talking about her in 100 years' time."

The county also had a representative among the pallbearers – Ashford soldier, Lance Corporal Tej Pun, 31, from the 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles, based at Shorncliffe.

Funeral pictures: HARLAND QUARRINGTON/MOD

Picture: CPL CHRIS HARGREAVES RLC/MOD

GOODBYE: Crowds gathered outside St Paul's Cathedral to pay their respects to Margaret Thatcher. Ashford Gurkha LCpl Tej Pun, pictured below, was one of the pallbearers

PEACEFUL OBJECTION

Protestors who joined the crowds lining the route turned their backs on the procession as it passed them – but they were far outnumbered by a mix of admirers of the late leader and the curious keen to witness the send off for such an historic character.

Holding up banners proclaiming 'rest in shame' the protestors did not disturb the procession, nor did police report any arrests.

COURT

Teen charged over helicopter laser

A TEENAGER will appear in court in June after being charged with shining a laser in the eyes of the pilot of a police helicopter.

It relates to an incident at around 10.30pm on April 17 when the helicopter was assisting officers on the ground who were searching for two men seen acting suspiciously in Gas Road, Sittingbourne.

As the helicopter hovered overhead, the pilot was dazzled by the laser from the ground.

William Henry Rye, 19, of Tonge Road, Sittingbourne, has been charged with recklessly/negligently acting in a manner likely to endanger a aircraft or person in an aircraft. He will appear at Maidstone Magistrates' Court on June 3.

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EDUCATION

$10 and radiation sickness: Colonel's reward for helping avert even bigger disaster at Chernobyl

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BURNING MEMORY: Colonel Igor Pysmenskyi (centre and far left of group shot) flew missions to seal the Chernobyl reactor

WITH his broad shoulders and towering frame, Igor Pysmenskyi strikes an imposing figure as he greets you with a firm handshake and warm smile.

He speaks through an interpreter, his soft Russian voice punctuated by a demonstrative manner which makes him engaging company.

Yet behind his gentle giant persona is a man who has been witness to one of the biggest man-made disasters of a generation; the catastrophic crisis of a nuclear power station facing imminent meltdown.

On April 26, 1986, he was one of just a handful of flying aces battling the crippled Chernobyl nuclear plant in the former Soviet Union.

As it belched out lethal radiation, he formed an integral part of an enormous rescue mission locked in a desperate attempt to prevent an even bigger disaster which would have blighted much of Europe for centuries: meltdown of the reactor.

With just hastily applied bandages to protect their faces, they hovered over the burning power station in a last-ditch mission to bury the menace beneath tonnes of concrete.

Flying inside a Red Air Force helicopter he directed a pilot through the radiation clouds encasing the striken core in a concrete sarcophagus to stifle future leaks.

In total he flew 29 missions and today pays a heavy price, with radiation sickness continuing to haunt him.

But this week he was touring Kent schools to talk about what he witnessed in a visit organised by the International Education and Exchange group, based in Dortmund, Germany.

Now retired from the military because of the damage to his health caused by radiation, Col Pysmenskyi campaigns on behalf of others like him who suffered from the poisoning as well as raising awareness of the many people who still live in areas which have poisoned water and earth.

The Ukranian said: "I was in a combat unit and the order came through to deploy to Chernobyl.

"Firefighters were first on the scene after the explosion and they'd used jets of water to try and put out flames so they did not spread to one of the other three reactors. But this water was starting to vaporise and form clouds contaminated with radiation.

"The air was very turbulent, filled with helicopters doing the same as us, dropping a mix of lead, sand and concrete to try and encase the reactor."

"We had no plan B," said Col Pysmenskyi. "If it hadn't worked, in my opinion, there would have been a larger catastrophe. Areas of Europe would have become uninhabitable."

As navigator, his job was to guide in the aircraft to a point just 200 metres above the leaking plant. Then he had to give the order to drop first sand, then lead, then rock from capsules suspended from a hook under its fuselage.

The crew had no protection against radiation. They were told to wind bandages around their faces which very quickly became brown as radioactive residue forced its way into the cockpit of the helicopter

"There were 800,000 people involved overall: it was like a little war. It was a war in fact, real fighting to stop a huge disaster," said Col Pysmenskyi.

But it was a war they would ultimately win – although not without terrible consequences to thousands of innocent people living nearby.

Col Pysmenskyi was decorated for his service and awarded the grand total of $10, but he says nothing could compensate for his loss of health.

He said: "I swore to serve my country and that is what I did."

■ **Col Pysmenskyi will be giving a presentation at Tenterden Town Hall on Saturday, April 27, at 7pm. Tickets are available from Travelux in the town or from 01233 336459.**

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TRANSPORT

'What is good for Calais is good for Dover too' as port development announced

OFFICIAL plans for an enormous £300million investment into the port of Calais were unveiled this week – with French chiefs insisting the benefits will ripple across the Channel.

Calais Port 2015 is an ambitious expansion of the port which will allow bigger ships to berth and create a 160-hectare industrial park.

It is also planning to build major new leisure facilities and hotels which it hopes will attract trade from both northern France and the UK.

Work will begin in September.

On Wednesday night a delegation from the port's operator, the Opal Coast chambers of commerce, made a presentation in a London hotel to highlight the benefits it will bring to Dover and the UK economy.

Earlier reports the French were to market Calais as 'Britain's New Gateway' sparked alarm the port was attempting to take trade away from the Kent port.

SPENDING: The port at Calais to benefit from a £300m investment

But Jean Marc Puissesseau, president of the chamber, insisted Dover and the UK will benefit from the £342m which is being invested.

"Calais operates only with Dover," he said. "Our main, principal and exclusive destination is Dover. All that is good for Calais is good for Dover. I think we will expand together."

Calais handled 22 million passengers last year and the plans under way will enable that figure to increase as bigger ships would be able to berth along quaysides constructed from land reclaimed from the sea, protected by a new sea wall.

Dredging of the seabed will also allow larger vessels into the port, but there are no plans to bring in container ships.

There are also plans for hotels and leisure facilities close by.

Funds are expected to come from EU cash, borrowing and the facility's owners, the Nord Pas de Calais Regional Council.

The expansion plans have been greeted with approval by UK transport companies.

Donald Armour is head of the international department of the Tunbridge Wells-based Freight Transport Association and was at the event.

He said: "I think it's very exciting and if it all comes together it will be to the benefit of the UK's transport industry. I understand the plans have got the go-ahead from the government but there are still a few ifs and buts as to what will actually be in place.

"Also Dover has its own expansion plans, so I can see the haulage business profiting."

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See Next Weeks Newspaper For Details!

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JUSTICE

Offenders face up to victims

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

VICTIMS of crime will be able to come face-to-face with offenders through a new scheme aimed at reducing reoffending through restorative justice.

Kent Probation is one of just three areas selected to deliver the programme.

Under the scheme, offenders who have pleaded guilty will be given the chance to meet their victim in a "restorative intervention" and if the victim is willing, a meeting will be arranged.

The victim will have the chance to have some their questions answered and the offender can take responsibility for the impact of their actions.

Kent Probation director, Tracey Kadir, said: "Restorative justice is not in opposition to sentences that punish offenders but can work alongside it and is often more challenging than any other sentence, and also far more likely to succeed in reducing reoffending.

"We believe victims will benefit enormously from the opportunity to explain the real impact of the crime against them and to seek answers to their questions, thus often easing their fears about further 'targeting'.

"For offenders, meeting their victim is often the first occasion where they will have seen the true pain and harm they have caused and to take responsibility for their actions. Both victim and offender can then play a part in repairing the harm and finding a way forward."

Ms Kadir will introduce the scheme at the Magistrates' Bench annual general meetings in Medway, Maidstone and Folkestone, throughout this month.

Peter Woolf, a high profile restorative justice speaker, will talk about his personal experience at the meetings.

He was a career criminal and heroin addict when in 2002 he broke into the home of businessman Will Riley. He received a three year prison sentence and Mr Riley was asked if he would like to take part in restorative justice.

Mr Woolf said: "Restorative justice is about what you no longer do. I am a great advocate for the scheme and it contributed to me completely changing my life. When I met my victims, for the first time I faced the consequences of my crimes and it made me stop offending."

CHARITY

Your chance to quiz Lord Coe

THE opportunity to question the man who spearheaded the hugely successful London Olympic Games takes place in Maidstone next month.

Lord Coe will be guest of honour at an event to raise money for military charity Help For Heroes, at the Mercure Great Danes Hotel in Hollingbourne on May 2.

The former Olympic gold-medal winner, turned London 2012 organiser, will take part in an on-stage conversation with Geoff Clark, the former BBC South East Today frontman, before taking questions from the audience.

Organiser Steve Craddock, who has been at the centre of a host of fundraising events for the charity in Kent, said: "There won't be a formal speech. Geoff will talk to Lord Coe on a number of topics and then we will open the whole thing up to the floor so that everyone has the chance to put their questions to him.

"That will make it more informal and light hearted."

It forms part of the Help For Heroes Grand Spring Ball. Also attending will be Paralympians from last summer's Games, and injured sevicemen and women.

The event costs £49 per person which includes a three course meal, raffle, auction, magicians and music.

Contact steve.craddock@h4hcounty.org.uk for tickets.

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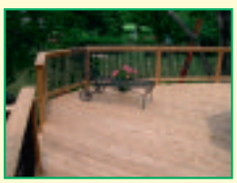

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CRIME

Cyber criminal pleads guilty to university and police website attacks

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

A COMPUTER hacker who tried to attack Kent Police's website along with a host of other high profile targets, has admitted to a string of offences.

Lewys Stephen Martin, 21, of Dover Road, Walmer, had attempted to breach security on the websites of the police and the home pages of both Oxford and Cambridge universities.

He pleaded guilty at Maidstone Crown Court to nine charges; five counts of unauthorised acts with intent to impair operation of or prevent/hinder access to a computer, two of unauthorised computer access with intent to commit other offences, one of unauthorised computer access with intent to commit other offences and one of unauthorised access to computer material.

Using the screen name 'Sl1ink', between January 29 and February 1, 2012, he attempted to cause chaos to the sites by overwhelming them with requests for information – attacking the Kent Police site for two days.

Police raided his home on February 3 and seized computer equipment after he rang up a media organisation and told them what he had done.

Det Ch Insp Tom Richards said: "We have robust systems in place to prevent our website being compromised. The attack on ours and other public-facing websites was serious and Martin's intention was to cause as much disruption and failure as possible.

"Kent Police's website is used by the public to access a range of services provided by us and other agencies. Resources had to be taken away from other duties in order to deal with this issue and, of course, any disruption to a website can result in disruption for the communities who view it. The attack on the Kent Police website resulted in access being temporarily unavailable to the public. There was no compromise or access to the website.

"Anyone who thinks of carrying out these types of attacks will be tracked down and brought before the courts to face the consequence of their actions."

Prosecutor Ken Goss added: "Cyber crime is a rapidly expanding area of criminal activity and can take many forms. In this case, Martin was attacking not only large organisations, but individuals. Anyone who has been the victim of cyber crime knows how devastating it can be, but for organisations, the impact can be just as damaging, both to their business and their reputation."

He will be sentenced in May.

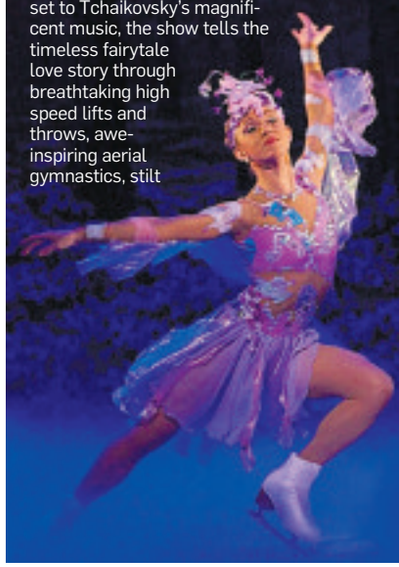
COMPETITION

Win tickets to Sleeping Beauty on Ice

DIRECT from a worldwide tour, the Imperial Ice Stars make a triumphant return to the UK with Sleeping Beauty on Ice, a production which is set to dazzle audiences at Dartford's Orchard Theatre next month.

And thanks to our fantastic competition, you could be there for free.

Starring the talented Olga Sharutenko and set to Tchaikovsky's magnificent music, the show tells the timeless fairytale love story through breathtaking high speed lifts and throws, awe-inspiring aerial gymnastics, stilt skating and fire effects – all in the intimacy of the theatre stage.



With acclaimed artistic director Tony Mercer, who is widely recognised as the world's leading creator of theatre on ice, and the distinguished Russian Olympic coach Tatiana Tarasova, along with an inspiring 26-strong cast of Olympic, World, European and national championship skaters, Sleeping Beauty on Ice will thrill and enchant audiences of all ages when it appears in Dartford from May 1-5.

To be in with a chance of winning one of five pairs of tickets to the May 1 showing simply answer the following question:

Which famous composer provides the music for Sleeping Beauty on Ice?
a. Beethoven b. Tchaikovsky c. Mozart

To enter, simply send your answer along with your name, address, postcode and a contact telephone number, to: Ice Competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS.

Winners will be selected from all correct entries. The promoter's decision is final. See www.kentnews.co.uk for full terms and conditions. Please note if you should enter after the closing deadline of April 24, 2013, your entry will not be valid.

Don't worry if you're not a winner. Tickets are on sale at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or you can call the ticket office on 01322 220000. Tickets are priced at £22.50-27.50, booking fee applies.

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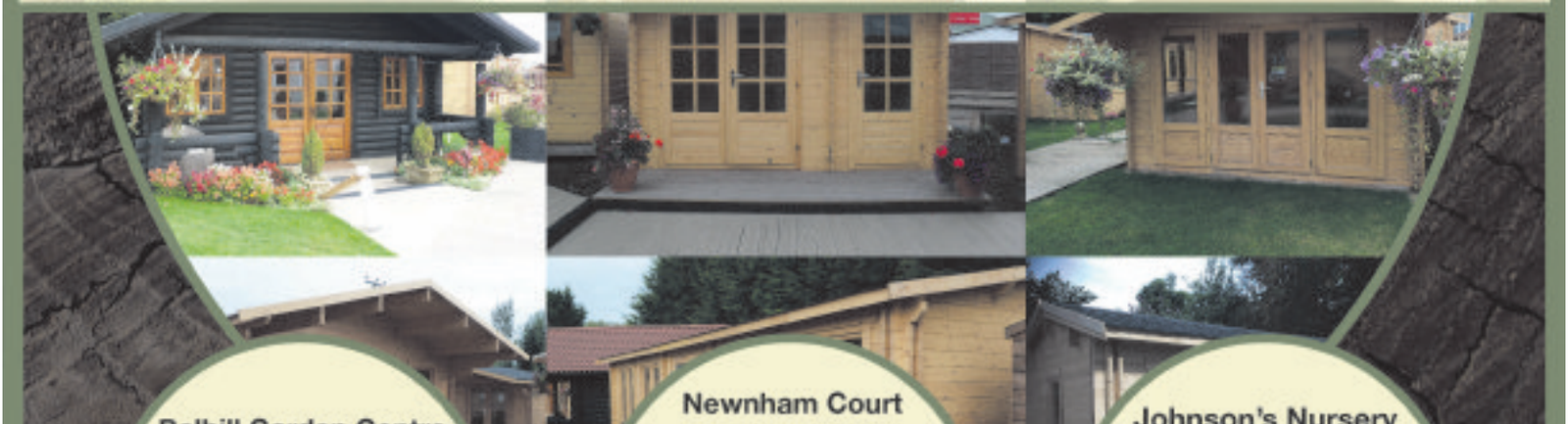

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HORTICULTURE

Big freeze leaves Chelsea Flower Show exhibitors sweating on plants

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A REGULAR exhibitor at the world-famous Chelsea Flower Show says he having a "torrid" time getting his lavender plants to grow ready to exhibit at the event.

And he is far from alone as the county's green-fingered experts hope the late arrival of spring will finally deliver some good news following the long cold winter.

Simon Charlesworth is no stranger to the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) annual showpiece having exhibited there 12 times before.

But the owner of Downderry Nursery in Hadlow, near Tonbridge, is worried the 1,000 plants he seeds specially for Chelsea won't yield the 250 perfect specimens he needs.

He said: "The one word I would use to describe how it's going is torrid. We took a break from the show last year because it was so wet and now find ourselves in the longest cold snap we have ever experienced – and I have been in the business for more than 20 years."

This has led to drastic and expensive measures to ensure the planned display in the Floral Marquee is ready.

A worried Mr Charlesworth explained: "We need to trick the greenhouse plants into flowering early so we leave the lights on for 13 hours a day.

"That's okay, but it has been so cold for so long the heating bill will be huge. We need a night-time temperature of about 10C, but are still three weeks behind where we should be.

"There have been some sleepless nights, but in the big picture, this is just a flower show. It may be the most important one in the world, but there are others things to worry more about."

Paul Harris at Brookfield Plants, near Ashford, plans to show 100 of the best or most influential varieties of hosta of the last 100 years to mark the centenary of organisers' the RHS.

But he too admits the weather has left him struggling.

He said: "The weather has been dreadful. The vast majority of our plants were not even showing themselves above ground, whereas a year ago, they were several inches tall by now."

But the recent arrival of the sun has brought some relief.

Mr Harris: "As soon as the sun comes out it warms up the plants in the greenhouses and they start growing."

Roger Platts, from Edenbridge, is the designer of the M&G Centenary Garden at the show.

He said: "We are constantly juggling with changes in weather conditions. We do have to nudge many plants forward a little so they will be looking as good in the middle of May as they would early in June."

■ **This year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show takes place between May 21-25.**

CENTENARY CELEBRATION

HELD in the grounds of the Chelsea Hospital, this year celebrates the Chelsea Flower Show's 100th anniversary.

It has been staged every year since 1913, pausing only for the two world wars.

Formerly the UK's largest flower show – that honour now belongs to Hampton Court – it remains the most prestigious.

Horticulturalists can make or break their reputation with high-profile designs in pursuit of the gold medal award.

It is the flower show most associated with the royal family, who attend the opening day every year.

WILDLIFE

Port oil spill kills birds

SEVERAL birds were killed and others had to be rescued after an oil spill, believed to have come from a ship at Ramsgate.

The RSPCA had to rescue the birds after they were spotted in distress in the town's harbour. Two red-throated divers and a dunlin died. Seven other birds are receiving treatment at an RSPCA centre in Hastings.

CRIME

Hunt on for burglar

A CROOK made off with a haul of jewellery worth thousands of pounds after breaking into a house in Gillingham.

The burglary took place on Sunday, April 7, at a house in Bredhurst Road.

The haul included a gold Omege watch worth £6,000 and a white gold diamond cross. Anyone offered the items should contact the police.

CRASH

Smash victim on TV

A MOTORIST who had to be cut free from the wreckage of his friend's Lotus sports car after a head-on collision in Chartham, will be featured on Channel 4 documentary 24 Hours in A&E on Wednesday.

Neil Chester, 39, received treatment by the road before being rushed to London's King College Hospital, where his treament was filmed.

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LITERATURE

Author uses frontline experience fighting IRA to pen soldier's story on the streets

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

FORMER soldier Mac Mallory, from Gillingham, has drawn on his experiences in Northern Ireland, where he served in 1969, to write a gritty fictional account of the fight against IRA terrorism.

Stories From The Streets tells of the tension and unpredictability of the conflict, in which it was hard for troops to tell who was a guerrilla fighter and who was a civilian as the mainly Catholic opposition to British rule also fought against Northern Irish Protestants.

The story tells how George Mallory, the central character, escapes from his abusive father and leaves the United States to live in England.

He decides to join the British Army and is thrust into battle on the streets of Londonderry where he and his fellow soldiers engage with the 'Black Balaclava Boys' as the IRA was popularly known.

Author Mr Mallory, 68, said: "I joined the Army in 1965, and served for five years. It was more than 40 years ago and seems like a long time, but I wanted to tell how things were.

"My book is a work of fiction based on fact. Back in the late 1960s things did get a bit 'warm' out there.

"It wasn't a conflict reported as much in the press as military activity is now so I wanted to give people a flavour of what it was like.

"I just see my service in Northern Ireland as one of the jobs I had to do, but it was certainly memorable.

"We had to deal with roadside bombs, just as soldiers in Afghanistan do now. To me it's a sneaky, cowardly way to fight. Why don't they just stand up and face you?"

He said morale and camaraderie within his unit were good, a fact well reflected in his book.

"Certainly the older people were glad to see us there," he said. "There was one couple – one Protestant, one Catholic – who used to invite soldiers round for Sunday lunch."

The Army's official role was to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary during the troubles.

"They used to be armed with just batons and they'd go into a crowd, which could have armed people in it, to make arrests," he said.

"We were there to back the 'snatch squads' up. It was mainly young people. To be honest I don't think many of the troublemakers really knew what they were fighting about. The problems have been going on for 300 years and they are still going on today."

IRISH TROUBLES THAT HIT MAINLAND BRITAIN AND BROUGHT TRAGEDY TO KENT TOWN

THE British Army was deployed in Northern Ireland from August 1969 to July 2007, initially at the request of the unionist government of Northern Ireland to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC).

The main opposition came from the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) which waged a guerrilla campaign against the deployment from 1970 to 1997.

These attacks spilled over to Britain, with IRA bomb alerts being a feature of life during the 1970s and 80s including the 1989 bombing of the Royal Marines Barracks at Deal in which 11 young soldiers died.

The Army's tasks included providing protection to the police in carrying out normal duties in areas of guerrilla threat, patrolling military and police bases to deter attack and supporting counter terrorist operations.

Called Operation Banner the military activity at its height had 21,000 soldiers stationed in the province. By 1980, this figure had dropped to 11,000, with a lower presence of 9,000 men in 1985, before a slight increase in response to IRA mortar attacks.

In 1998, the Good Friday Agreement formally bought the troubles to a close, but terrorist activity by splinter groups continues to this day.

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

Tudor taverns worth raising a tankard to

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A GUIDEBOOK to the inns and alehouses of a forgotten age in the county has been published – giving readers a glimpse into what it describes as "a Tudor traveller's guide to the nation's finest taverns".

Entitled Ye Olde Good Inn Guide, it harks back to Kent in the 16th century.

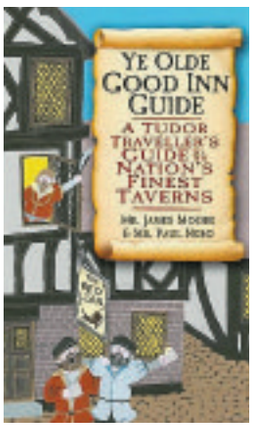
The pubs, alehouses, inns and taverns are broken down county by county by authors James Moore and Rob Nero, with details of food and drink offered at the various establishments as well as some necessary health warnings.

Today's modern pubs – which trade in some of the oldest buildings in the county – are also detailed for anyone who wants to make a visit, allowing drinkers to learn a little of the history of their favourite drinking holes.

The entry about Kent, written for the 16th century reveller, explains how in "recent years" Canterbury has suffered through the Dissolution of the Monasteries as it is no longer a place of pilgrimage following the destruction of the shrine of Thomas Becket.

Dover has had its problems too, as an earthquake in 1580 caused severe damage. But Chatham is looking on the up as Henry VIII has just started constructing the dockyard.

Details of the perils of drinking competitions, bawdy games, such as football, and the attractions of loose women, fairs and tobacco, a new craze, are also available to those who want to understand what going out for a beer meant in a period of history where you might be able to buy William Shakespeare a pint.



IN THE BOOK: Tonbridge's Ye Olde Chequers was a dangerous place for a drink in Tudor times

"Kent has many fine inns, 45 as of 1577," the book, published by History Press, states.

But it then issues a warning: "However there be presently much worry about how much crime be fermented by the lower sort of alehouse, for in the courts of the county offences linked to tippling houses make up the largest number of misdemeanours."

Canterbury's Crown Inn was visited in Tudor times by Queen Elizabeth I and redecorated in her honour.

While staying there she met a suitor, the French Duke of Anjou, who gave her a frog-shaped earring. But nothing came of it and she remained unmarried until her death.

Now the site of a Thornton's in High Street, it was only rivalled in popularity by The White Hart close to Westgate, which retains some of its period charm in its current guise as The Falstaff Hotel.

The book tells of the quality of ale available in the county: "Hop growing be now most popular here in Kent, which hath a long tradition of brewing."

Rochester is still home to a high street pub called the Crown, and in the Tudor period The Crown Inn was the site of the first meeting between Henry VIII and his fourth wife Anne of Cleves. He is believed to have stayed there incognito so he could see what attraction the German noblewoman held for him, by catching sight of her as she travelled to her lodgings in the nearby Bishop's Palace.

The couple married but the king was not impressed and branded her a "Flanders Mare". However, Anne got revenge by outliving both him and the remainder of his wives after winning a lucrative divorce.

Tonbridge High Street was home to the Chequers Inn (now Ye Olde Chequers) which appears to be a rather ill-omened place.

Rebels who followed Wat Tyler's revolt in 1381 were sentenced to death there, a woman called Margery Polly was burned outside the inn for heresy and another woman, unnamed, executed for poisoning her husband.

And you thought it could get rowdy on a Saturday night in the 21st century.

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OPINION

Hidden message of election

Prof Richard G Whitman considers the importance of your county council vote in relation to public confidence in national government

ELECTIONS are to be held on Thursday, May 2, with 402 candidates from 15 different parties contesting the 84 seats up for grabs on Kent County Council.

This is one of 35 English council elections taking place on the same day.

This set of elections last took place in June 2009 and the UK political scene has been transformed since that time.

In the interim there has been the 2010 General Election bringing the Coalition government to power, the national economy is struggling and government spending cuts are registering in opinion polls as sources of public discontent.

In February the Eastleigh parliamentary by-election – following the resignation of former cabinet minister and Liberal Democrat MP Chris Huhne – saw Ukip dramatically finish in second place behind the Lib Dems and ahead of the Conservatives and Labour.

The UK political scene is in a considerable state of flux and the Coalition government suffering a mid-term dip in opinion polls.

The Kent Council Council (KCC) elections will see the Conservative Party seeking to retain their current overall control of the council, which they hold with 74 of the 84 seats.

The Lib Dems and Labour hold, respectively, seven and two of the council seats.

The Lib Dems will need to work hard to retain their current number of councillors.

At present Labour is riding higher than the two Government coalition partners in national opinion polling. They will be looking to increase their share of the vote and gain additional seats on KCC.

Kent is an important ground for Labour in its bid to demonstrate that it can make a breakthrough in the Conservative electoral heartland.

The election will be especially important for Ukip too, who are looking to move beyond a perception that they are a single issue protest vote party and to become a national political force breaking the mould of the UK's national three party political scene.

In Kent, Ukip will be looking for a major breakthrough in these council elections to secure their first seats on KCC.

They are making a considerable push for election in Kent, running 74 candidates (a significant increase from the 27 who stood in Kent at the 2009 elections).

Back then they took a 6.2 per cent share of the vote (a percentage point ahead of the Green Party). In recent months they have soared as high as a 17 per cent share of voting intentions in national opinion polling.

Results will be examined for any impact on voters' support of the two coalition parties

However, should Ukip fail to secure a seat on KCC it would reassure the Conservative Party in the county that their underlying electoral support remains solid.

Local government election results are always used as indicators of national political trends and especially as a vote on the incumbent government – this is something which is complicated further for these elections in having a coalition government in power.

The results will be examined closely for any differential impact on voters' support of the two coalition parties.

For Kent, the electorate will be deciding who they want to determine their local services for the next five years and beyond the date for the next General Election.

■ **Richard G Whitman is professor of politics and international relations at the University of Kent.**

KOS COMMENT

Don't look for blame, just sort the NHS 111 crisis

THE new NHS 111 phone line has hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons.

Devised as something to help direct people to the right health service, it has instead, some say, done the opposite and potentially caused a crisis at A&E departments.

Perhaps blame those who thought it would solve problems within an already overstretched health service; but this isn't a blame game.

The phone line was introduced to help people access local health services quickly – no-one questions that need. It's the badly thought-out implementation that needs work, and quickly, otherwise we're likely to see a repeat of these problems.

Good luck to our runners

GOOD luck to everyone brave enough to take on the gruelling 26 miles of the London Marathon.

And if you don't tackle the course yourself, the event for spectators is a highly enjoyable one – with everyone united in cheering on sporting endeavour, regardless of nation. A rare treat indeed.

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Sculpture by Canterbury Cathedral by Todd Emerson, Shepherdswell

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Bedroom tax is upsetting

IN response to your article regarding the fairness of welfare reforms, I believe these reforms are not just unfair but unnecessary and expensive.

My main objection to the bedroom tax is that the overwhelming majority of those affected will be unable to downsize as smaller properties are not available.

The likely result is an increase in debt and homelessness – both of which will have a profound negative effect (financial and societal) not just for the individuals involved, but for the whole community.

The solution to the widely-recognised problem of long housing waiting lists and families living in cramped, unsuitable accommodation is, surely, to build more social housing of the right size. Why is this never proposed?

The Government's own figures show the cuts to the welfare budget will mostly affect those in work but underpaid, children and the disabled. These people are poor for complex reasons – spiralling rents, underemployment, low pay etc – not because they are morally flawed.

I oppose welfare reform not because I am personally affected, but because it makes no economic sense and upsets me that it will devastate the lives of many of our most vulnerable citizens.

Sally Gathern, Ashford

Disgrace of celebrations

I just cannot believe all the rubbish from the media on Margaret Thatcher; newspapers, radio and TV alike.

She was one of the better leaders, which is why she stayed in the position for so long. What happened while she was in power were party decisions not, as the media are suggesting, all her ideas.

Another human disgrace is celebrating her death.

As for the miners' strike, it was a disgrace that they did nothing for the people in the areas after closing mines.

At the time of the strikes, a minority of miners disgraced the others with their violence.

The millions spent on her funeral would be better spent on veterans of all wars, young and old, who are struggling.

Adrian Ottley, Birchington

Airport plans are all wrong

THE Government decision to expand Lydd Airport and Kent County Council's continuing enthusiasm for the economically faltering Manston Airport ignore environmental and economic realities.

The public have no legal right to protection from aircraft noise. Aircraft add to air pollution and to greenhouse gas emissions.

Aircraft disturb and displace bird populations, many of which are in decline. And the environment around Lydd contains both one functioning and one retired nuclear power station and associated radioactive materials, as well as a wind farm with new wind turbines being proposed.

The area is hazardous for aviation expansion.

Airports generate very few jobs for the space they occupy, compared to possible all-weather leisure centres on the same sites. So this decision is wrong environmentally and economically.

We welcome news that legal challenges are to be mounted against this decision.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party

Shared space is dangerous

YES, Mr Hudson-Gool (letters, March 30), I am opposed to shared space schemes. They seem to be of no benefit to either pedestrians or drivers as there is no clear demarcation for anybody, plus of course it is just another massive traffic calming obstacle to free flowing traffic.

Basically, a cheap alternative to a proper road system.

Some organisations catering for the needs of blind and deaf people oppose them because of this mixed usage, especially with ever quieter electric cars.

There are murmurings that Tenterden is the next town to go this way, despite having the A28 running through it, a road that has seen ever lower speed limits, in consequence 'caterpillars' of slow moving traffic are the norm.

I have never claimed I speak for all drivers, but judge people by their actions rather than their words, so I basically know my views are not far from my contemporaries.

Mr Hudson-Gool did rather miss the point of my last letter, in that I opposed the mass imposition of 20mph limits.

Cars through the decades have taken me to places that no other form of transport in real timescales and convenience could ever match, but this does require a reasonable speed when safe to do so.

Now that mobility is being eroded at a rapid rate, I will not stand by and do nothing.

Terry Hudson, Swalecliffe

Drivers are not stupid

THE state of Kent's roads is shocking, with dangerous potholes everywhere, but I have been okay with that because I know money is tight.

Until, that is, last week when a series of signs and road markings were put alongside the speed restrictions in Castle Way in Leybourne.

This is an appalling waste of money and, worse still, assumes road users don't have the common sense to slow down and let others through.

Clearly the council considers that drivers have no brains and need a bunch of bureaucrats to spend our money telling us how to drive.

By the way, can the council have the traffic lights on the roundabout at the M20 junction 4 to be broken more often please. It's the only time traffic has flowed properly.

Richard Zaborski, Ditton

My best ever Gills players

HAVING enjoyed your features on Gillingham's best players (KOS, sport), my first visit was in October 1958 to the 3-0 win against Crewe Alexandra.

Players I most remember were John Simpson, Harry Hughes, Roy Proverbs, Gordon Pulley and Pat Terry. Along with Peter Feeley from the 1970s team; the best header of the ball in the lower leagues.

My 1960s team would be: Simpson, Hunt, Bailey, Burgess, Riddick, Farrall, Waldock, Crickmore, Yeo, Gibbs and Meredith. Mention should also go to three other forwards; Ron Newman, Charlie Livesey and Rodney Green.

My 1970s team would be: Hillyard, Peach, Galvin, Shipperly, Bruce, Knight, Tydeman, Chadwick, Richardson, Price, Feeley with Danny Westwood, Tony Funnell and Alan Wilks deserving mention.

I hope this brings back more 'mature' supporters' memories.

Derek Maybourne, Frittenden

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59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easy-going, GSOH, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071**

JAYNE 44 bored, underappreciated pretty blue eyed intelligent lady seeking fun and interesting professional in similar situation to me for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403011**

CLAIRE looking for adventurous male to live life to the max and enjoy adult fun times with. Go on give me a call. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993**

GILL 41, shy, lonely single country loving female with no ties, OHAC WLTM n/s genuine, confident male companion for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402799**

AMANDA 36yr old single female, blue eyes, curvy, really pretty with lovely smile, loves music, nights out, WLTM loving male for dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402787**

SHIRLEY 32 attractive nurse, enjoys good food/wine, keeping fit, looking good, searching for non committed relations with mature well-dressed man. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402779**

FEMALE young 60, petite, outgoing, sociable, looking for someone special to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403423**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101**

LADY 57, away with the fairies, looking for her wizard and enchantment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403093**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

LIZ blonde blue eyed curvy female, considered attractive, tactile, sensual, enjoys music, entertaining, nice people, seeking well educated professional 50-60yrs. **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402773**

JO 29 tall slim female who loves soaps, animals, shopping, being a mum and am looking for 40's male with GSOH who will appreciate a tactile, loving female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402765**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067**

DANCE partner sought by lady beginner in ballroom and Latin American dancing, ideally 55 plus, to visit local dances for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401333**

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**

DELILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421**

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273**

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382**

JACQUELINE 82, widow, car driver, not slim, ugly or neurotic, seeks interesting, caring gent, 70 plus for talk and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403659**

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275**

21YR old slim figured female, no ties, looking for male 30-45yrs for non committed relationship, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402761**

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CHRIS petite attractive brunette, enjoys social drinks, meals out, theatre, seeks hardworking professional male looking for adult attention too. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402759**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

ANNA very lonely divorced single mum with lots of love to give seeks similar caring male who also wants to find the right person, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403481**

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with GSOH and a wicked sense of humour, employed, OHAC, looking for similar male who enjoys life as much as I do. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403391**

BEV very attractive lady who loves cosy nights in, seeks caring man who can put the spring back in my step and twinkle back in my eye, call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403353**

SHAY 39 looking for fun loving male to brighten up my world! There must be someone out there prepared to take on a feisty attractive professional with OHAC, money in the bank and a great body! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403341**

JACQUELINE widow, 82, easy-going, not ugly or neurotic, good listener, caring, loyal, seeks gent, 60-80 for conversation, company and outings. Sevenoaks, car driver. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403397**

SHARON 37yr old size 10 attractive feminine blonde, divorced with OHAC, seeks nice male who like me is fed up with being on their own. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403351**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

KATHY genuine good/young looking lonely female, fit with good figure, seeking man to fall in love with, enjoy adult companionship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403349**

VICKY petite size 16, attractive, caring, genuine and very much single, likes varied interests, WLTM kind genuine N/S male 40-55yrs for dates hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403343**

LOUISE blue eyed pretty brunette, size 12, OHAC, professional, enjoys good conversation, looking for someone to make me happy again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403335**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

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DENNIS 53yrs retired police officer living in Kent, WLTM female for mutual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404201**

GARDENER 50, 6ft, honest, happy, single, fit gardener seeks attractive younger lady for fun NSA nights in, weekends away, country walks, picnics and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404115**

BRUCE likes meals out, romantic walks, days out, seeking lady, 40-60 for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403097**

THANET male, young mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403729**

PRETTY petite lady sought by older, professional businessman, looking for LTR and loyalty. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394530**

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow, Italian, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402481**

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405**

EDDIE African male, seeking female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394354**

CHRIS 58, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

70YRS young male, good looking, GSOH, seeking lady for love and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403455**

RONALD 65 plus, 5ft 9ins, slim, sociable, GSOH, tactile, N/S, many interests, seeking lady dance partner to learn ballroom and Latin. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403211**

SWANSEA man, 51, 5ft 6ins, slim, seeks slim female for nights in/out, company, walks, talks and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402033**

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913**

BLACK male, 50, bubbly personality, seeks buxom, pear shaped, rubinesque white female, 25-55 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402887**

GRAHAM 52, N/S, likes days out, antique fairs, animals, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 40-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401727**

TALL 64yr old young at heart N/S male, widower, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401531**

TONY 50, likes nights in/out, football, fishing, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394506**

BRIAN fun loving, happy go lucky, likes walks, animals, cuddles, nights in/out, seeking loving, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402729**

BLACK British male, African descent, medium build, varied interests, understanding, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402641**

ROBERT medium build, single, seeks nice, attractive, busty female with sexy clothes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402597**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easy-going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402531**

YOUNG mixed race male, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402499**

AARON 35, no ties, 5ft 9ins, clean shaven, attractive, Italian background, chef, down to earth, open minded, likes meals out, weekends away, socialising, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402497**

5FT 7ins white male, 50, N/S, looking to settle down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401897**

AVERAGE male, 50's, large build, broadminded, OHAC, GSOH, naturist novice, smoker, seeks petite/medium build lady for relationship. Must be uninhibited, broadminded and mature. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401887**

PETE 55, good looking, 6ft 2ins, own hair, seeking attractive female, 45-60 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394294**

GENUINE fun loving guy 55, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595**

TONY retired, GSOH, likes indoor life, dvds, seeking N/S lady, 65 plus, likes countryside for friendship. West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401481**

ANDY 36, sexy, fun, come say hello. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402903**

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, easygoing, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401**

THANET male, smart, young, mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401399**

CHRIS 51, looking for young female, 25-42, white, slim, N/S for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401395**

HANDCUFFS and whips. Male 49, seeks younger, slim-medium build female for fun times. Chatham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401365**

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STEVEN 63, looking for LTR with man, 59 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402147**

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STRAIGHT female, 48, Ashford, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, country walks with dogs and swimming. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403171**

MALE early 80's, fit, active, many interests, seeks similar male for friendship and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401621**

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I love all kinds of music, especially live music and I love talking to new ppl. **Text MICHAEL to 60109**

Help....Help.....can u hear me???Im up here on the shelf an need a hand to get down :-D **Text STACY to 60109**

I am looking to talk to someone who shares similar passions and interests, who is down to earth and knows what they want from life **Text SANDRA to 60109**

Hi all im down to earth but dont suffer fools. im fiery and head strong im looking to talk to like minded ppl **Text PAULA to 60109**

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By **GREG MILES**

Watch out chocolate!

Fudge is raising the bar, and a Kent firm is leading the way

FUDGE... that tasty seaside treat for your neighbour in thanks for looking after your dog. Not any more!

The days of fudge being so stereotyped are over, according to Lyminge-based Fudge Kitchen. The company is eyeing domination of its sector of the market, with its premium-brand image winning over punters in what is its 30th-anniversary year.

Managing director and owner Sian Holt feels it is an exciting time to be in the industry as the business sits on the verge of opening a new factory, having expanded its range in recent years – with the odd accident involving vacuum-packing playing its part in the creation process.

'Essentially, we're creating a whole new category of premium confectionery'

The 52-year-old bought the business in 1995 from founder Jim Garrahy, who started it in 1983. She has seen a big change in that time.

"It's changed enormously in the last 20 years, principally because of the birth of online and the trends in the food industry," she said. "As with any business, to establish a brand or presence you need to have retail sites on the pavement, but now you can have a high profile with a website and search-engine optimisation.

"There has been an explosion of fudge brands, but most if not all sit on the cottage-industry platform.

"At the other end of the scale, fudge has tended to be associated with the box of cheap product you buy when you've been on holiday to Torquay or Scarborough to give to the lady who's looked after your dog for the week."

However, high-quality fudge is beginning to follow the trend of chocolate in becoming the must-give gift, said Sian: "Getting any facts and figures on the wider sales of fudge is almost impossible because it gets lost in the confectionery sector.

"But if you look at the chocolate market, which is better documented, we know newsagent-style confectionery has pretty much been in the doldrums in the last few years, worldwide. But high-end chocolatiers can't make enough of the stuff.

"Artisan producers have created an interest in their products, made with techniques that are interesting and different and are produced and displayed with an attention to detail. Essentially, we're creating a whole new category of premium confectionery, putting it in a hole it's never been seen in before, so it's positioned to rival any high-end chocolate brand."

Things began to change three years ago when Fudge Kitchen realised it needed to create a better shelf life for its product. Because its speciality slab-style whipping-cream fudge contains no butter, it only held its quality for five to seven days and so was unsuitable for wholesale.

"We looked at wholesaling as our strategic area for growth rather than having more sites ourself," said Sian.

"What we realised is that there wasn't anybody sitting where we did on the high street. There wasn't a gourmet, premium fudge – it's either cottage-industry or mass-produced in a naff box near the seaside. That showed us what we needed to do."

So how did they create a longer-lasting fudge?

"We undertook a study with the University of Greenwich to try to extend the shelf life of the product. That took 12 to 18 months. Ironically, we invented a new product in the process.

"I took a pile of fudge to a company in Sevenoaks and said 'Can I put some in your vacuum-packing machine to see if we can find a packaging solution to the shelf-life problem?'. It completely imploded and became liquid. We inadvertently invented our fudge sauce!"

Sian continued: "When the project for the shelf life was completed, the fudge had gone from five to seven to 20 days, but it didn't help us as it's still too short. We do supply some customers on a basis that it's freshly made. You need to be a speciality foodie to understand it, really.

"We got to the end of the first project without a product with an adequate shelf life. That took another year."

'I tend to overdose on one flavour'

In the end, butter had to be added, helping retain the moisture. That new range and the new fudge sauce were then ready for wholesale. For the first year, last year, the fudge was produced by hand in the back of the company's shops in Canterbury and York.

This presented a few problems when it came to big orders, but that work is now being transferred to a new factory in Aylesham, which is all set to open on Tuesday, April 30.

"We managed to survive for last year, producing and despatching orders from those two sites, but we knew we would have to consolidate into a stand-alone facility. It came to a head last Christmas when we were doing orders on palettes from down near the cathedral. We began looking for a site before Christmas and found this one in Aylesham."

Retaining its head office in Kent and choosing Aylesham as the new factory site also means that the company can continue its expansion into Europe.

You may wonder how anyone can stay slender when working for a fudge company, but there is a simple answer that ensures you neither gorge nor get get sick of the stuff altogether.

"We have a huge army of fudge experts out there for tastings. It's a team thing," Sian said.

"I don't know about others, but what I tend to do is overdose on one particular flavour and won't eat it for a few months, so then I move on to other ones.

"Producing fudge requires an awful lot of energy, so you don't get a lot of overweight fudge-makers, which is ironic."

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GRAND REOPENING: Laurel and Hardy visited the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway in 1947 to help it back on track after the war, even providing a helpful push-start. Their appearance in Kent was reportedly 'like Beatlemania'.

The day Laurel and Hardy got our mini railway moving again

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

HARDCORE Laurel and Hardy fans are to mark the anniversary of the pair's reopening of the New Romney to Dungeness railway with the help of Hi-de-Hi star Jeffrey Holland early next month.

The international appreciation society for the Hollywood stars, Sons of the Desert, has arranged for its members to visit the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway (RH&DR) on Saturday, May 4, to mark the anniversary.

New Romney station was packed on March 21, 1947, when they cut the ribbon to reopen the line after the end of the war. Now, more than 150 fans from across Europe and as far afield as America will be marking that appearance as a feature of this year's UK Laurel and Hardy convention being hosted by Southend-based 'tent' – the name given to Laurel and Hardy fan clubs – Saps-on-Sea.

Holland, who played Spike in Hi-de-Hi, and his actress wife Judy Buxton will appear at the event alongside Laurel and Hardy look-alikes, while there will also be a parade from the tents.

Roger Robinson, from the Saps-on-Sea tent, said the occasion had been celebrated only twice before, in 2008 and 2002.

"It's very clear Laurel and Hardy had an extremely enjoyable day," he said. "Everywhere they went, it was like Beatlemania. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as did the staff and the public. There was tomfoolery, with the pair exchanging hats."

Lesley Maxim from RH&DR is hoping that the event will be a great occasion for locals as well as fan groups.

"We were prompted to do it by the groups," she said. "It's not something we had ever thought about doing before."

The tents will arrive on the No 10 Doctor Syn locomotive in time for the 1pm start. Tickets can be bought at www.rhdr.org.uk/shop, by phoning 01797 362353, or on the day at stations

Chatham-based tent Helpmates is also set to make an appearance.

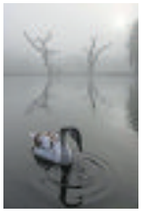
It is holding its own Laurel and Hardy convention, on Sunday, May 26. It takes place at the Holiday Inn, Maidstone Road, Chatham, from 11am. Two films will be on show as well as some rare footage.

You can visit www.laurelandhardy.org to find out more about the Chatham event.

Competition zooms in on beauty of wildlife

THE chance to be featured in a county-wide magazine is up for grabs for aspiring photographers in a wildlife competition.

Kent Wildlife Trust has launched the sixth annual Wildlife Photography Competition, open only to amateurs, with four categories for entries. They are fauna (mammals, insects, birds), flora (plants, trees, lichens, fungi), landscape, coastline and people and junior (aged 17 and under).



GRACE: Jason Steel's 2012 winner

The only stipulation is that the photographs must have been taken in Kent.

It is free to enter, with the winning entries showcased in the Wild Kent magazine, on the trust's website and at five visitor centres.

The competition will be judged by a panel chaired by a representative of The Natural History Museum's photographic unit.

An awards evening will be held for the winners at the competition sponsor's premises, the Barnyard Restaurant in Upchurch.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, July 31. For more details and an entry form, visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk, email info@kentwildlife.org.uk or phone 01622 662012.

Requiem performance

CANTERBURY Choral Society and its youth choir will be joining forces for a performance of Brahms's Requiem this month.

They will perform at Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday, April 27, at 7.30pm and be joined by soloists Sofia Niklasson and Charles Rice.

Niklasson, the Swedish soprano, has performed throughout Sweden in oratorios and also with the renowned percussion group Kroumata throughout Europe.

Rice studied at the Royal Academy Of Music and in 2009 won the Garsington Prize. He attended The King's School, Canterbury.

Tickets are available at www.marlowtheatre.com or from the box office on 01227 787787. Visit Canterbury Choral Society's website www.canterburychoral.co.uk to find out more.

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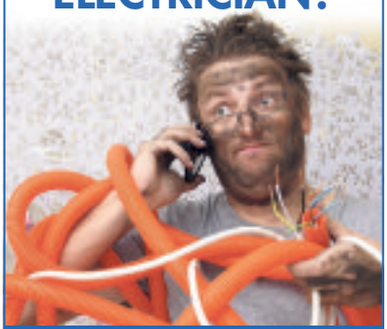

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Cinderella introduces young to joy of ballet

A CHILD-FRIENDLY production of Cinderella is set to hit the stage next weekend in Bromley.

My First Cinderella, at The Churchill Theatre in Bromley, is a simplified version of the classic tale aimed at giving youngsters aged three and above their first taste of ballet.

The ballet has the feel of the real thing ,with dancers wearing the company's full production costumes, but the choreography has been adapted for the younger audience by the cast from the English National Ballet School (ENB2).

ENB2 is a new touring company featuring graduating dancers from English National Ballet School in performances produced by English National Ballet, continuing the policy of bringing ballet to young audiences.

It is the second commission for 22-year-old choreographer George Williamson, following his Firebird in 2012 at the Coliseum.

The cast includes Matthew Koon, one of the first Billy Elliots in the stage show and also a finalist on Sky's Got To Dance. It is narrated by Jane Wymark, better known as Joyce Barnaby in Midsomer Murders.

My First Cinderella will be at the Churchill from Saturday to Monday, April 27-29. Tickets are priced from £11 to £26. See www.atgtickets.com/bromley for further details.

Pay what you want for food at this club

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

A RESTAURANT in Tenterden has come up with a unique dining experience that gives customers the freedom to pay only what they think their meal is worth.

The Swan at Chapel Down's vineyard is starting a weekly supper club to make the most of local food and give head chef Jose Manuel Azevedo the chance to flex his creative muscles in developing an exciting menu with a few twists.

Customers will have no idea what will be on the menu – apart from their strongest dislikes, which are given to the restaurant in advance – and they can also pay what they think it is worth once the meal is finished.

On arrival they will be greeted with the ingredients from local markets, butchers and fishmongers, and then it is down to the cooks to create a personalised three-course menu.

"Our chef Jose went out a couple of times and caught some scallops, and then this idea dawned on us," said restaurant project manager Rebecca Sarginson. "Customers won't get a menu. They let us know what they don't like and we won't cook that. It's part of the excitement.

"We did a dummy run with friends and family a week ago, and everyone seemed happy with it."

SO TALENTED: Head chef Jose Manuel Azevedo

Giving customers the chance to pay what they want for a meal obviously has its downside, but Ms Sarginson thinks it is a risk worth taking.

"That's the twist at the end of the evening," she said. "You pay for your wine and what you think the food is worth. I'm sure at some point we might get someone drinking water who leaves £5. That's not the clientele we hope to attract.

"It's about being proud of what we provide. It's a risk, but it's a little bit of fun and having confidence in what we think we can deliver."

The first date of the supper club is this Thursday, April 25. It then runs on May 23, June 20, July 25 and August 22 (all Thursdays).

For further information, email bookings@loveswan.co.uk or phone 015800 761616.

FAB FOUR

Godinton House, Ashford
Saturday, April 27
Phone: 01233 643854
Web: www.godinton-house-gardens.co.uk
Garden-borders workshop: Viv Hunt and Fiona Abrahams give information and suggestions for finding the right plants to transform your borders without paying a small fortune! Price £55.

Theatre Royal Margate
Saturday, April 27, 7.30pm
Phone: 01843 292795/296111
Website: www.theatreroyalmargate.com
Celtic Dream: An all-singing, all-dancing international production that delivers the heart and soul of Ireland! A myriad of dance, vocals and costume. Tickets £20 (concessions £18).

STAG arts centre, Sevenoaks
Sunday, May 5, 8pm
Phone: 01732 450175
Website: www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk
Snake Davis: Soul-funk saxophonist Davis comes to town with a new line-up, SnakeStrings, that will appeal to both regular fans and a whole new audience. Tickets £16.

Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe
Thursday, April 25, 8.30pm
Phone: 01303 277175
Email: dwoodland05@aol.com
Battle of the Baritones: Karen Sharp and Mick Foster... both genius. Sharp holds the crown of UK's best baritone, while many think Foster the closest we have to Gerry Mulligan. Tickets £10.

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*The official International Laurel and Hardy Appreciation Society

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Jesse Ware will be putting heart and soul into leading the Lounge line-up

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

SOULFUL pop star Jesse Ware is headlining this year's Lounge On The Farm festival.

She is following in the female footsteps of Ellie Goulding and Emeli Sandé, who were among the big-name acts of 2011 and 2012 respectively.

Also joining the 2013 line-up at Merton Farm, Canterbury, are ska band Man Like Me, rockers Willy Moon, Kent up-and-comers Broken Hands and Blaenavon.

Confirmed for the Friday night are firm LOTF favourites the Scratch Perverts, comprising DJs Tony Vegas, Prime Cuts and Plus One. Together they are synonymous with hip-hop, battle DJing and being one of the most progressive spin collectives in the world.

Now in its eighth year, the summer bash has been brought forward to earlier in the year than previous events: Friday to Sunday, July 26-28.

LOTF, which is keeping prices low with a weekend ticket costing £100, will see folk-rocker Seasick Steve and reggae-pop crossover legends Aswad take to the stage.

Soul II Soul featuring Caron Wheeler will also play the festival, along with Dub Pistols, Lucy Rose, Simone Felice and Syd Arthur.

Completing the musical line-up are Beans On Toast, Peggy Sue, Rae Morris, Treetop Flyers, Marika Hackman, Mary Epworth, Annie Eve, George Erza, JP Cooper, Pale Seas, Eliza and The Bear, Sweet Baboo, Jacco Gardner and Police Dog Hogan.

SHINE ON YOU: Jesse Ware will be following in the LOTF footsteps of Emeli Sande and Ellie Goulding

Other DJs to have confirmed, meanwhile, include MK David Rogan, DJ Alfredo, DJ Format, Heatwave, Jesse James and Inland Knights.

There will be a special celebration to mark 25 years of acid-house music, featuring Marshall Jefferson, Bobby Langley and Jon Dasilva.

The comedy and cabaret of the Spoken Word stage will include performances from Stephen K Amos, Tony Law, Phil Kay, Mae Marin, Tongue Fu featuring Salena Godden and the Boom & Bang Circus featuring Patti Plinko and Tankus the Henge.

There will, of course, be plenty for the family to do, with the Groovy Movie Picturehouse, Gastronomy, Kids Comedy Club, spa, Victorian funfair, artisan and vintage markets, Bushcraft & Forestry School and the Disco Shed.

The You Say They Play event returns to promote and host the best unsigned talent from the area, in association with Canterbury College.

You can get tickets at www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk and www.ticketline.co.uk, while retail outlets are still to be confirmed.

SOUND ISLAND

NOT so very far from LOTF – and over the same weekend – the Sound Island Festival at Birchington's Quex Park has announced more of its main acts, including MK1, The Vamps and Joywride.

The festival, on Saturday and Sunday, July 27-28, has already announced Jessie J, Lawson and Union J as its headline acts for the Sunday.

MK1 featured on live shows of television's The X Factor last year and already has a headline tour and debut album lined up.

The Vamps hit the headlines when their cover of One Direction's Live While We're Young soared to more than 300,000 views on YouTube in under a week.

Six months on and they have reached the 10 million-views mark and have just signed to EMI.

Dance-rock revivalists Joywride have emerged from London's underground in recent years and combine their fashionista charm with classic-styled pop.

On the Saturday, performers will include headliner Plan B with Rita Ora, James Arthr, Gigs, Bebe Black and Little Nikki.

For more information on Sound Island, or to book tickets for the event, you can visit www.soundislandfestival.com or www.gigantic.com or phone 0871 224 1112. Tickets can also be booked by visiting Margate's Winter Gardens.

Tickets are on sale now at £35 per day or £64 for a weekend ticket. Booking fees may apply.

PARK AND RESIDENTIAL HOMES

MAKING A SPLASH: Youngsters can burn off their energy in the superb indoor pool at Romney Sands

Fantastic range of things to do for all family at Romney Sands

SITTING opposite one of Kent's finest sandy beaches and close to the wildlife-filled Romney Marsh, Romney Sands Holiday Park promises a memorable holiday experience.

You can splash around in the fantastic indoor pool or watch the kids burn off energy on the adventure playground. There's even a fishing lake, so make sure you bring your rod!

Later on, swing by the Southbeach Club for some sensational entertainment.

At Romney Sands Holiday Park there is a wide range of accommodation to make your stay as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

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New Romney Caravan Park is everything a holiday site should be

NEW Romney Caravan Park is situated on the south Kent coast in a quiet and peaceful spot just 300 yards from the sea.

The park is a family-owned site that offers a safe and family friendly environment. Close to beach activities and family days out in this beautiful area, New Romney Caravan Park is everything that's wonderful about a family caravan holiday by the sea.

The park is gated and well laid out with lots of space between the holiday caravans, with a small community clubhouse and adventure play area.

Well-behaved dogs are welcome and there is a good-size dog walking area.

If you want to relax and unwind and enjoy the great outdoors, then New Romney Caravan Park is right for you.

The park has won the coveted Gold Bellamy Award no fewer than eight years running and takes pride in raising awareness of the natural environment to its visitors.

The park offers rental caravans for short breaks or a full family holiday and many holidays throughout the year are at discount prices.

Caravan holiday homes are designed with all home comforts as part of the package and are perfect for both couples and larger families.

For those who want even more and the flexibility to get away whenever they want, the park always has a great selection of both new and used caravans for sale – with prices starting from only £8,995 ready to move into!

A holiday home at New Romney Caravan Park will give you years of family pleasure and many happy memories.

New Romney Caravan Park is proud of the service it provides to both individual caravan-owners and holidaymakers alike.

So if you have been thinking about owning a holiday caravan of your own, or a holiday by the sea, now is an excellent time to spot a bargain.

Why not give the park a call or have a look around soon? The friendly team at New Romney Caravan Park will be delighted to answer your questions or show you this tranquil park and the holiday homes that are available.

You can phone 01797 362247 or see www.newromneycaravanpark.co.uk for more details.

Text 'caravan' or 'holiday' to 80012 and you may find an exclusive discount code! (Standard text rates apply).

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*standard message rates apply

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Park Home Living think again!

As we grow older our thoughts naturally turn to the future and the changes we can make to improve our lifestyle. If you've never considered a park home before, then think again.

The Park Life Group is one of the largest and longest established family run park home companies in the UK and offers high quality homes in some of the most beautiful parts of the country along with excellent customer service.

You might be surprised to learn that people from all walks of life and professions choose to live in a park home, or to buy one as a second home. They enable you to be part of a welcoming and friendly community, live in a modern home with a high-spec interior at remarkable value for money. Some parks are exclusively for people over 45 or 50, so that your lifestyle is compatible with your neighbours.

Beautiful locations

A park home can provide the opportunity to live in some of the most beautiful or exclusive parts of England and Wales, perhaps one that you thought would never be possible! The Park Life Group has parks across the country from Truro in Cornwall to Grosvenor Park, in Ripon on the edge of the North Yorkshire Dales.

As well as picturesque views, all Park Life Group parks offer easy access to local towns, with the facilities and infrastructure that makes modern living so convenient. If you want to be close to friends and family, there are many sites in the South East of England, as well as the Midlands and the East of England. In fact, the Park Life Group has parks across the country, in the counties of: Avon, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Dorset, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, Kent, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Pembrokeshire, Suffolk, Surrey, West Sussex and Yorkshire.

Enhance your lifestyle

Downsizing can free you from the costs and demands of maintaining an old or larger property so you have more leisure time to enjoy. By moving to a park home, you can have the countryside on your doorstep, fabulous beaches or a stunning golf course nearby. If you choose a park home as your second home, then you can make your leisure time really special.

Park home living is all about living the lifestyle that you want. There's a great sense of community, and you'll find like-minded people who take the chance to enjoy themselves. You'll find tranquillity as well as a safe and secure environment for yourself, your home and your possessions.

The staff at Park Life Group can also help to relieve the hassle of selling your existing home with their innovative part exchange/equity release scheme.

Experience our parks for yourself by coming along to one of our **Open Days** where you will meet one of our friendly sales team who will be available to give you a no obligation tour of the park and view some of our stunning new homes and plots available for you to design and spec your own home.

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April 27-28th
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Fordcombe, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0SL
Thornlea Park
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 7QS

May 11-12th
Sat & Sun 10am - 4pm
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Allhallows-on-sea, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9TD

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Marlowe hosts the best of Budapest

THE Budapest Festival Orchestra will be making a rare appearance on English shores when it visits The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury this month.

The 30-year-old orchestra, which is under the leadership of co-founder and music director Ivan Fischer, above, will be performing at The Marlowe on Saturday, April 27.

Fischer, who was music director of Kent Opera, will conduct the evening, which includes music from Beethoven, Brahms and Dohnányi.

Guest soloist is Imogen Cooper, an internationally-renowned pianist who has performed with the New York Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic and Philadelphia Orchestras. She also recently released her recording Schubert Live to great critical acclaim.

Tickets for The Marlowe concert, which starts at 7.30pm, are priced from £11 to £34 (concessions available) and available through www.marlowetheatre.com or by phoning the box office on 01227 787787.

He's 6ft 3in 'in every sense of the word' but actor delights in his life as a queen

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

FROM life in the Emmerdale village to corsets and high heels, it's all in a day's work for Priscilla Queen Of The Desert star Richard Grieve.

The Aussie actor has made a seamless transition into the role of transgender Bernadette in the stage adaptation of the comedy film of the same name, which is coming to Tunbridge Wells's Assembly Hall Theatre next month.

His native accent has also helped him fit into the part with the film, which follows two drag queens and a transsexual on a journey across the Australian outback, which is where Grieve spent his childhood. He moved to England 10 years ago after parts in Home And Away and Neighbours, which led to two years as Jonny Foster in Emmerdale.

Having previously appeared in the West End version of the show in the character of Tick, Grieve has been on the road with this production since February, with another 10 months to go.

"I'm a 6ft 3in man in every sense of the word," he said. "I have to wear a corset and I have to change my physical shape and wear the wig and make-up and high heels," he said. "Then there's the way I move – you can't be masculine at all.

"To explore my feminine side is a slightly guilty pleasure.

"I was all set to read for the part of Tick, but I got a call the night before asking if I was interested in reading for Bernadette. It came out of leftfield. It's a whole new thing. The character is a completely different acting experience."

The show features a number of added songs but remains largely the same as the big-screen version, which Grieve, 46, discovered when watching it not so long ago.

"I saw the film when it came out many years ago, but when I was going into the production in town I made a choice that I wasn't going to watch it," he said. "After doing it for a while, I thought I would put the DVD on – it's outstanding how true the show dialogue is to the film. It's incredibly faithful to the story."

Priscilla Queen Of The Desert is at the Assembly Hall Theatre from Monday to Saturday, May 6-11. Tickets range from £29.50 to £38.50. Visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or phone the box office on 01892 530613/532072.

Picture: TRISTRAM KENTON

WHAT A DRAG: The touring Priscilla Queen Of The Desert will be spending six days in Tunbridge Wells

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Time gallops on but it won't spoil enjoyment of fine food

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

I WAS a little on edge about my visit to The White Horse in Bearsted. I'd rather stupidly only phoned to book three days ahead and so – it being a busy Saturday night – was only able to secure a table from 6.45pm-9pm. Ample time in reality, but not enough to allow me to relax.

Enough about my nerves, though. My guests and I were given a warm welcome when we entered this delightful pub on the edge of Bearsted Green, one of the most beautiful village centres I've ever visited.

The pub is light and modern while retaining much of the character of the building it inhabits, and we enjoyed our surroundings while devouring a delicious bowl of olives and sipping our drinks before the food arrived.

My starter of gambas won the prize for the most impressive appearance, with three or four giant prawn-like creatures piled artfully on rustic bread with a delicious dressing of garlic butter with aioli. It was one of the pricier options at £8.45 but worth every penny. A Mediterranean mezze platter kept my guests happy, too.

For the mains we chose the West Country beefburger with black-and-blue Gorgonzola and mushroom; fish pie with smoked haddock and tiger prawns, Applewood cheese mash and a crispy pangrattato; and lemon sole pan-fried

with brown shrimps and beurre noisette; prices ranged from £12.95 to £17.95.

Once I got over the shock of being presented with an unfilleted sole, I dived in to another delicious dish, the fish melting in my mouth; the buttered shrimps were a perfect addition. The fish pie was equally well received, with my guest remarking on the smoked cheese in the mash.

As for the 'black-and-blue burger', I never thought that something as standard as a burger in a bun could be turned into a work of art. Our third devoured his meal in record time, but this was just a sign of how much he enjoyed it.

Alongside our mains we'd chosen a couple of sides, which was probably a sign of our greed rather than need. However, the cabbage, leek and peas combo certainly deserved mention.

Throughout the meal we were well looked after, with our waitress providing drinks whenever needed and answering any questions about our food, making it a generally enjoyable experience. She also didn't bat an eyelid when we agreed to see the pudding menu just half an hour before our table time ran out (I couldn't help clock-watching).

We rounded things off with sticky-toffee pudding (me) and a banana, dulce de leche, brownie and Italian vanilla gelato coupe (guest). Both were good but couldn't quite live up to the perfection of the preceding courses. As time was running out, we called it a day and retired to the bar area for drinks to round off our evening.

Together with wines and beer, our bill came to a tad over £100 for three – not cheap but such a good experience that I'll be back just as soon as I can book a table for a whole evening.

Erica Jones

■ **The White Horse, The Green, Bearsted ME14 4DL (phone 01622 738365; website www.thewhitehorsebearsted.co.uk)**

Thai celebrations are spicing up the month

THAI restaurants are this month celebrating Songkran, Thailand's traditional New Year festival, with authentic entertainment.

Diners across the county will be treated to performances from the Thai Dance Academy.

Songkran is celebrated over three days in April, the hottest month of the year in Thailand.

Traditions include colourful parades, religious ceremonies and even a water-throwing finale in which people drench each other to represent the washing away of any misfortunes from the past year.

One of the biggest Songkran celebrations will be at the Pad Thai restaurant in West Malling on Saturday, April 30.

Folkestone foodie scene is blooming

THE new Blooms restaurant in South Street, Folkestone, has already created a buzz with customers.

The eatery opened less than a month ago but has gathered a fan base of more than 400 on Facebook.

Serving a Mediterranean menu, it is hoped that the new venue will provide competition for Folkestone's big-hitting restaurant Rocksalt, run by celebrity chef Mark Sargeant, as well as draw in more foodie visitors to the area.

Phil Godden, who grew up in Folkestone, is behind the resras did head chef James Pearce and restaurant manager Andrew Wintie.

Ten Mile Lunch Menu

Our lunch menu is created using produce from local farmers, fisherman & foragers.
It changes daily according to the seasons, and is available 12 – 2.30pm Tuesday – Saturday.
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Saturday 8th June 2013 10am-1pm

Principal's talks in the Sinden Theatre at 10.30am & 11.30am

Come along and join us for a morning exploring the vibrant world class learning experience that is Homewood

For further information please contact
Lynn Castle, Admissions Officer on 01580 764222 ext 201
or email l.castle@homewood.kent.sch.uk

BLUEBIRD CARE

Care comes naturally at Bluebird

BLUEBIRD Care, the UK's fastest-growing provider of care-at-home service, has opened two new offices in Strood and Sittingbourne.

The offices provide tailor-made care visits in homes to customers in the Medway and Swale areas, especially covering the local rural areas surrounding these towns.

Bluebird Care (Medway) is owned and operated by Charmaine Grech, who has worked as an occupational therapist in various health-care settings – NHS and independent – throughout her career.

Charmaine is passionate about quality care and is eager to be able to bring her experience and passion in her provision of domiciliary care.

Bluebird Care (Ashford and Swale) is owned and operated by Kim Kailanathan and Charmaine Grech.

Kim has been a qualified nurse for over 31 years and has extensive experience and is trained in adult and children's nursing.

Kim is committed to ensuring that the care-workers are trained to a high standard and customer-focused.

She is passionate about everyone receiving the best-quality care... each time and every time.

Both offices are looking to create more than 60 jobs before the end of the year and are always looking for passionate and caring staff.

The services extend to a broad range of customers – older people, younger adults, children and those with physical disabilities, learning difficulties and dementia.

Charmaine and Kim said: "Our overall objective is to support the individual and their families to have a better-quality life. Our customers' care needs remain at the heart of everything we do."

You can contact Bluebird Care on:
• Ashford and Swale, 01795 432644
• Medway, 01634 780909

HELPING HAND: Care is paramount at Bluebird

EYES FORWARD: Children can grow in the three traditions of the performing arts

STAGECOACH CANTERBURY

The finest for drama, dance and song

ALAN GOODWIN, the principal at Stagecoach Canterbury, has over five years' experience of providing drama, dance and singing classes.

He has also performed on stage, on television for the BBC and in major theatres such as the Savoy. Former pupils of his include Alison Moyet, Russell Brand, Martin Gore and Andrew Fletcher from Depeche Mode.

All drama, dance and singing classes are run by professional teachers who have been fully CRB-checked. With industry experience in choreography, singing, directing and acting, teachers are experts in their chosen field

• Children aged 6-18
Your child will participate in the three disciplines of the performing arts in a weekly three-hour session.

Children are split into three groups of similar ages and study each discipline for one hour. They are taught to express themselves creatively and effectively while learning at their own speed.

For more information, phone Alan on 01227 764110.

• Children aged 4-6
'Early Stages' will introduce your child to drama, dance and singing classes in a 90-minute session, split into 30-minute classes.

Classes are restricted to 15 children, allowing young talent to be nurtured while encouraging and inspiring those who might need additional confidence.

For more information, phone Alan on 01227 764110.

• For details on all Stagecoach Canterbury classes, visit www.stagecoach.co.uk/canterbury.

HOMEWOOD SCHOOL

A 'good, safe school' that you can see at open morning

Year 5 open morning, Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre
Ofsted 2012: 'This is a good school'

CHOOSING a new school can be a daunting experience for many families.

Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre's Summer Open Morning for Year 5 pupils, which has become an annual event, is designed to help students and their parents or carers start thinking about the secondary admissions process in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

Between 10am and 1pm the school will be opened to visitors. There is no need to book – you can just turn up and enjoy activities ranging from printing workshops to science experiments in the excellent facilities.

You will be able to mingle with teaching staff and chat to the admissions officer, who will be only too pleased to help with any questions or queries that you might have.

Information about the whole application and admissions process for September 2014 will be available, as well as details about how staff work closely with primary schools to help students make a successful transition to Homewood.

Some of Homewood's Year 7 students will be on hand to answer questions, too.

The principal, Sally Lees, will be speaking at 10.30am and 11.30am and there will be opportunities for families to meet her afterwards on an informal basis.

Visitors can also take the opportunity to visit Homewood's splendid library facilities, which are used by the local community as well as the school, and to meet a surprise guest author who will be signing books.

The school farm will be open and it is expected that the pigs will have had their piglets by then – come along and find out!

All the animals will be on show, including the school's new calf, who was born in April, while local suppliers will be selling food and drink.

Finally, if they don't already know about the exciting programme of Year 5 and 6 Saturday master classes and the holiday activity week, families can find out more about what lies ahead over the summer and beyond.

Homewood looks forward to welcoming you to its beautiful grounds and exciting curriculum.

Ofsted 2012: "Students feel secure and... safe"; "the curriculum is broad, flexible and meets the interests and needs of students exceptionally well"; "the principal has brought experience, tenacity and inspiration to the school's work".

11 PLUS ACADEMY

Prepare your child for the 11+ ... with no stress

TAKE the stress out of the 11+ Test with the 11 Plus Academy!

Parents of nine- and 10-year-olds will be all too aware of the 11+ Test that children face in Year 6 if they would like to apply for a place in a grammar school.

Placing too much pressure on children to pass this test can have counter-productive results, meaning children are stressed and cannot perform to their potential.

The good news is that with a few interventions you can take the stress out of the 11+ Test.

• BUILD CONFIDENCE AND BE POSITIVE
Reassure your child that whatever the result, you know they will try their best.

• FAMILIARISATION
On the day, your child will be completing multiple-choice questions with a separate answer sheet that they fill in by marking boxes, like a Lottery ticket.
You can buy practice papers from the high street with a similar structure. Non Verbal Reasoning and Verbal Reasoning questions will be new to them. Why not learn how to do them together? You can have fun learning!

• PRACTICALITIES
Encourage children to wear and use a watch so they can see how much time they have left, and visit the bathroom before the test begins. Nothing is as distracting as a full bladder! Plus, a nutritious breakfast WILL help concentration levels.

The 11 Plus Academy cannot guarantee results (if only!), but it can make sure these young people have all the necessary preparation and encouragement so that, come the big day, parents and children can relax a little knowing that, whatever the outcome, they tried their best. Good luck!

The 11 Plus Academy offers weekly tuition, mock exams and summer intensive courses in convenient community-centre and school locations across Kent and Medway.

Reservations are being taken now for the 2013/14 test (current Year 4 children), starting in October 2013.

Phone 01634 566165, email enquiries@11plus-academy.co.uk or visit www.11plus-academy.co.uk for help with September 2013 Kent and Medway Tests.

Picture: MANU

STAY POSITIVE: Principal Patricia Matthewman

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• 2 night mini-cruise in a 2-berth cabin with 2 breakfasts & 1 dinner from Orkney to Shetland and Shetland to Aberdeen
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A ride on the Strathspey Steam Railway will take us away from the bustle of everyday life, through some of the most gorgeous highland scenery.

The Trossachs are where the Highlands and Lowlands meet. Here, charming Loch Katrine is truly one of Scotland's special places. Just as special as the magnificent scenery is the famous steamship – the Sir Walter Scott - which has been a landmark in the area for over 100 years. A cruise on this wonderful ship or on 'Lady of the Lake', is also included.

Further east, in the Royal Deeside area, we'll discover Glamis Castle - the Queen Mother's former home and a stunning architectural treasure that is full of vitality to this day (this visit only available on June tour).

In September we visit the Braemar Highland Games, the best celebration of Highlands tradition & sporting endeavour attended by members of the Royal Family.

INCLUDED:

• Escorted throughout
• Return rail travel from London Kings Cross to Pitlochry
• 5 nights half-board hotel stay in Pitlochry
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• Loch Katrine Cruise
• Strathspey Railway ride
• Entry to Glamis Castle or Braemar Highland Games

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Quote PF5-KOS

31 May, 2013

You're invited to our private party to celebrate the decades with arguably the best music, fashion and fun of the 20th century – for over 40s only – at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy a 99p Bar every night, and great variety entertainment including 50s & 60s tribute bands, fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun.

Mamma Mia & Super 70s 99p Bar Party

3 nights, half board+99p Bar

£119pp

Quote MM6-KOS

28 June, 2013

We're taking a trip down memory lane to the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned supreme and their music was on everyone's lips. Enjoy a 99p Bar every night, and great variety entertainment including a Mamma Mia movie screening, Abba and 70s tribute bands, a fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun.

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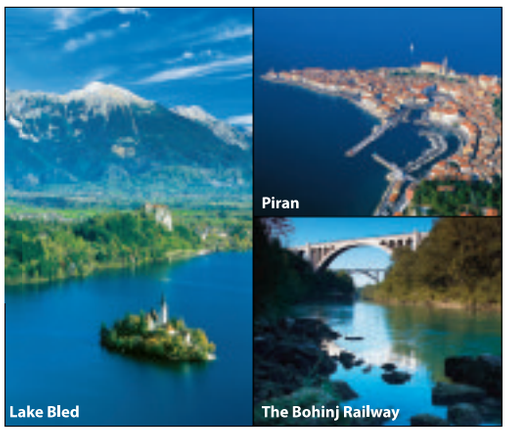

Slovenia's Lake Bled & Adriatic Coast

Escorted Holiday by Air from Gatwick

8 days, half board+

£849pp

Quote PB9-KOS

3 September, 2013

Bordered by Italy, Austria, Hungary & Croatia, Slovenia must be one of Europe's best kept secrets, from the balmy Adriatic coast to stunning Lake Bled, this former Yugoslavian state surprises and delights visitors. We stay 3 nights at Lake Bled, including beer, wine & soft drinks with dinners and 4 nights near Piran on the Adriatic coast, including a coastal cruise. The journey from coast to Bled includes a ride on the Bohinj Railway, one of Europe's great rail journeys.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • Return flights from Gatwick to Venice • 7 nights half board hotel stay • Excursions • All transfers abroad

Valkenburg, Liege & Maastricht Christmas Party River Cruises

Escorted Rail to River-Cruises from London

4 or 5 days, semi-all-inclusive

From £369pp

Quote XA/XL-KOS

26 Nov (5 days); 30 Nov & 3 Dec (4 days), 2013

Join us for a relaxing river cruise taking-in Christmas markets in Holland, Belgium & Germany. Choose a 4 or 5 day break travelling by train from London St Pancras or Ebbsfleet. Join the mps Princess - exclusively chartered by us - which will host you in comfort and style with almost everything on board included: beer, wine by the glass, Dutch spirits & soft drinks served at lunch & dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar - PLUS - breakfast, lunch, afternoon cakes, dinner, late snacks - PLUS - entertainment.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from St Pancras or Ebbsfleet • 3 or 4-night semi-all-inclusive cruise on the mps Princess • Outside, twin cabin with private facilities • Entertainment • Transfers abroad

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Young need urgent help to find work

UNEMPLOYMENT figures in Kent have bucked the national trend.

Figures released this week saw the number of out of work people in the county, in the three months to February, was 35,953 – a drop of 928.

Nationwide, the figure has risen by 70,000 putting the total number of out of work people in the UK at 2.56m. This means 7.9 per cent of the economically active population is out of work.

But too many young people are still jobless in Kent, say small businesses, and they need more support.

Roger House, Federation of Small Businesses chairman, said: "A reduction in the number of unemployed people is great news because it was across all areas of Kent and contrary to national figures.

"But it is disappointing that we still have too many unemployed young people. Particularly worrying is the number of 18-24-year-olds who have been out of work for more than a year.

"This is the fifth successive quarter we've seen long-term unemployment rise in this age group. The FSB wants the Government to focus on supporting small firms to take on apprentices and boosting young people's employability skills."

Sales up for cross Channel train travel

EUROSTAR says it has managed to grow its revenues in the first quarter of 2013 – despite the cold weather and snow having an impact on its service.

The operator of the high-speed rail route, which runs from St Pancras, through Ebbsfleet and Ashford and onto destinations such as Paris and Brussels, says tourist traffic buoyed up its figures despite a dip in business travellers.

Figures for the first three months of 2013 show that compared to the same period in 2012, sales revenues grew by one per cent to £213 million (£211m in Q1 2012), while passenger numbers showed a slight drop year-on-year at 2.23m (2.24m).

Nicolas Petrovic, chief executive of Eurostar, said: "This quarter's performance is testament to our enduring popularity with regular and first time travellers alike."

If you have a business story, **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you. Telephone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**
Follow us on Twitter @KOSbusiness

Fears rise minimum wage will push small firms out of business

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

PLANS to introduce an increased minimum wage from October have been attacked as "unwelcome" by a group representing the county's small businesses.

Business secretary Vince Cable confirmed the basic adult rate would be increased by 12 pence later this year, following a recommendation by the Low Pay Commission. It means the base rate will now be £6.31 an hour. There are also modest increases for those aged under 21.

Mr Cable said: "The independent commission plays a crucial role in advising the government when setting the national minimum wage.

"It balances wages of low paid workers against employment prospects if the rate was set too high. We are accepting its recommendations for the adult and youth rate increases, which I am confident strikes this balance. However, there is worrying evidence that a significant number of employers are not paying apprentices the relevant minimum wage rate."

BUSINESS SECRETARY: Vince Cable is confident in the new wages

But the move was criticised by the county branch of the Federation of Small Businesses.

A spokesman for the group said: "The increase is unwelcome in today's economic climate.

"We understand the Government must strike a balance between boosting consumer spending and economic growth, however they must ensure small businesses in Kent and Medway stay competitive at a time when the economy remains fragile.

"There will be businesses that operate on thin margins and will struggle with any increase. We therefore urge the Government to place renewed impetus into driving down their overheads, such as business rates, energy and fuel costs, and freeing up cash-flow by ending the scourge of late payment by big companies to their suppliers.

THE INCREASES

Adult rate up 12p to
£6.31

18-20-year-olds up 5p to
£5.03

16-17-year-olds up 4p to
£3.72

Apprentice rate up 3p to
£2.68

Department store to be at home in commuter town

NEW HOME: John Lewis is to set up an outlet dedicated to the home just off the M20 near Ashford

WORK is set to get under way on a new John Lewis store on the outskirts of Ashford, which it is hoped will be ready for business before the end of the year.

The £7 million store will be built just off junction nine of the M20 and is set to create some 125 new jobs.

The outlet will be a John Lewis at home store, which focuses on furniture, building accessories and home improvements. A similar store already exists in Tunbridge Wells.

Ashford Borough Council called the news a "feather in the cap" for the town.

Acting leader Gerry Clarkson said: "They are exactly the type of company we want to attract and this is another sign of growing confidence in the town as a place to invest."

Andy Street, managing director, John Lewis, added: "It's an ideal fit for us in terms of both location and catchment, and we are looking forward to becoming part of the community."

John Lewis has two other outlets in Kent – one in Tunbridge Wells and one at Bluewater.

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UCA is master of its architecture students' destiny with new course

DESIGN: Course set for change

THE University of the Creative Arts (UCA) has launched a new award for its postgraduate degree in architecture in a move it hopes will enhance student's global skills set.

A new Master of Architecture (MArch) qualification will replace the existing Graduate Diploma in Architecture from September 2013.

The MArch award, which is a well respected and recognised degree around the world, will continue to boast the same ARB prescription and RIBA Part 2 validation that the School of Architecture at UCA Canterbury has delivered for more than 60 years.

Allan Atlee, head of architecture at UCA, said: "The course will provide the cornerstone for our growing portfolio of Masters level courses in architecture and urban design that all of our postgraduate students will be working on."

Cooking up some very tasty work experience

CULINARY colleges around the UK are being asked to nominate their most promising third year students for a competition which could see them secure a 12-month paid placement in a top Michelin star-winning restaurant.

The Electrolux Chef Academy aims to give young graduate chefs the chance to spend four months in three leading kitchens in a bid to help them in their career.

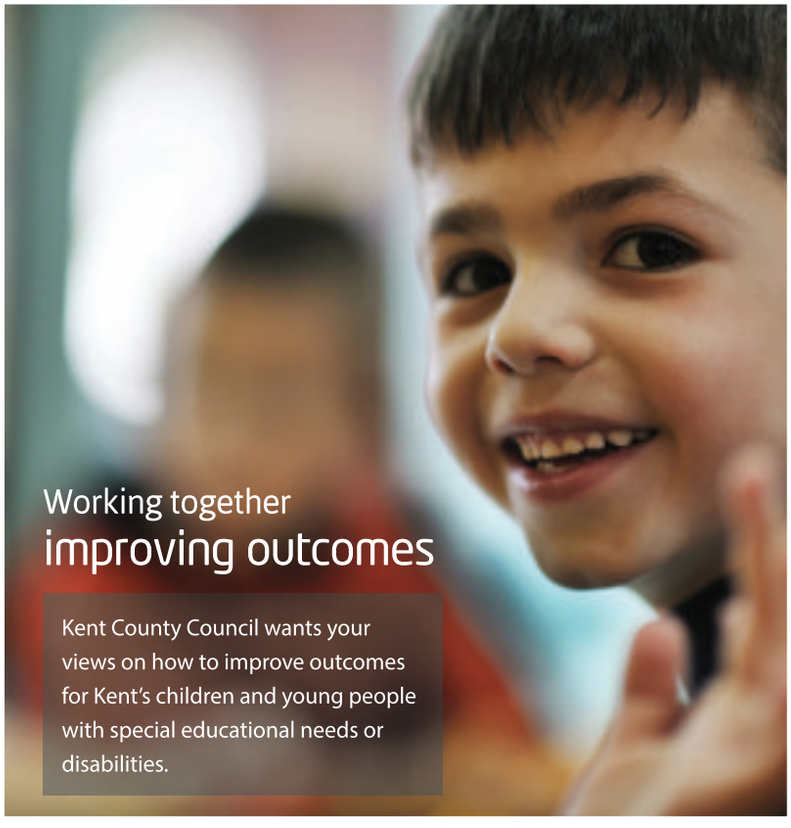
To enter and find out more, visit facebook.com/Electrolux.

Language school gets Trinity College backing

LANGUAGE school English in Margate has won validation from Trinity College, London, to operate teacher training courses.

The Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (Cert TESOL) will begin in June when the first of four courses go live.

Previously run in Broadstairs, it is the first time it has been offered in Margate. The school is already a member of the International Association of Language Centres.



View and comment on our draft strategy by visiting:
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This consultation closes on 3 June 2013.

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

START: Students are handed £10 and given a month to try and multiply that amount

Tenner scheme to unveil entrepreneur potential

A NATIONWIDE enterprise competition for young teenagers has returned - giving youngsters the chance to show their entrepreneur spirit.

The Tenner scheme gives young people £10 to do "something enterprising, make a difference and give back".

In short, they need to try and snowball that initial investment by using their ability to spot a gap in the market and exploit it.

Organised by Young Enterprise, the country's largest enterprised education charity, it has won support from the top levels of the Government.

Business secretary Vince Cable has been so impressed with the scheme, he has invested an additional £50,000 of Government money into the prize pot.

A spokesman for the competition explained: "Tenner is designed to promote business thinking and action to create community improvements in schools.

"Young teenagers are encouraged to pursue their entrepreneurial, money-making and socially-aware instincts in virtually any direction, starting with a humble 10 pound note.

"Students are given £10 from the Tenner Bank then told to use this start-up capital to get their business off the ground, working alone or in a group.

"They have the whole month to make as much profit as they can from their tenner while also trying to make a difference and give back to society. There are online resources to help teachers and students, including a logbook for students to help them keep track of how they are getting on.

"At the end of the month, finances are tallied up, loans repaid and donations given.

"This means that the £10 loan is repaid plus a suggested £1 to the Tenner Bank so more students can participate next year in the challenge. Students decide what to do with the extra profits – spend on a day out, buy the latest trainers, save for a rainy day or donate to charity to help others.

"The only rules are you cannot use your £10 loan to gamble, take part in illegal activities, be fraudulent and, importantly, if the teacher says no, so do we."

Michael Mercieca, chief executive of Young Enterprise, said: "Tenner's competition strapline, 'It's in your hands', really encapsulates our philosophy to give young people a chance to explore their entrepreneurial instincts and desire for community improvements in any direction they choose.

"We expect this year's Tenner scheme to be bigger and better than ever before and look forward to seeing some of the ingenious money-making methods chosen by participants."

Closing date for the competition, which this year is being run in conjunction with social enterprise agency UnLtd, has been put back to April 22.

For details see www.tenner.org.uk.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

Union reveals relationship of the arts

THE University of Kent has revealed the fruits of a collaboration with London's Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA).

It will offer a new masters programme, with the 'MA in the contemporary' offered by the university's school of English in collaboration with its school of arts and the ICA.

It aims to provide students with a deep understanding of the relationship between disciplines in the arts.

Students taking the course will be taught at both the University of Kent's Canterbury campus and the ICA in London, choosing modules from English literature, creative writing, film, drama and history and philosophy of art.

It will also offer students an internship at the ICA, as well as free ICA membership during their studies.

David Herd, professor of modern literature from the university's school of English, said: "Working with staff at both the University of Kent and the ICA, students will arrive at a deep understanding of contemporary culture while also, through the internship scheme, gaining invaluable work experience. We look forward to welcoming the first cohort of students to what is certain to be a very stimulating programme."

JUST A CLICK AWAY: Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive at Visit Kent (right), says the new-look website showcases everything good about county

Hopes revamped website will inspire new business and tourism to county

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

TOURISM organisation Visit Kent is set to reveal its new-look website this week at one of the county's top business events,

It says the site will come with added functionality and act as the first port of call for visitors while acting as an important springboard for businesses to sell their wares.

It is hoped the site will help spark more sales to generate more money into the local economy and capitalise on the county's growing popularity.

Visitors to the Kent 2020 Vision Live event in Detling on Thursday, April 25, will be among the first to witness the capabilities of the site bearing the fruits of an eight-month overhaul by web developers Rippleffect.

A spokeswoman for Visit Kent, which acts as the county's tourism champion, said: "From a business point of view it will show companies what we already have in Kent and also highlight the potential for those who want to relocate here.

"Existing tourism-based businesses are also entitled to have their details appear on the site for free."

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive at Visit Kent, added: "Our website is Kent's window display and it has to showcase our great county and our tourism businesses to inspire people to visit.

"Thanks to the latest technology we are now able to tell our many stories in different ways and encourage people to create their own Kent chapters to fulfil their own specific tastes, needs and aspirations."

Kent 2020 is set to attract around 300 exhibitors and up to 2,500 visitors, and will include representatives from business, tourism and marketing groups.

Orgainser Jane Ollis said: "With the worst of the downturn behind us, there are some major opportunities emerging for Kent businesses and this year's show is the perfect place to find out about them.

"The event has always been about much more than just bringing buyers and sellers together, allowing visitors to discover and access opportunities they may not even know existed.

"These might be new sectors, overseas markets, specialist support services, emerging technologies or just ground-breaking ideas.

■ **Visit the new-look Visit Kent website at www.visitkent.co.uk.**

Kent 2020 tribute to "business champion"

A SPECIAL commemoration is to be held at Kent 2020 in honour of Kevin Lynes, Tory councillor for Tunbridge Wells East, who died suddenly last year aged just 53.

The popular county councillor was appointed cabinet member for regeneration and economic development for Kent County Council in 2008, and became a cheerleader for the county's businesses.

KCC leader Paul Carter said following Cllr Lynes' death: "He made an enormous difference in recent years, endeavouring to help and support the business economy."

To mark his memory, there will be a charity auction in aid of The Kevin Lynes Apprenticeship Scheme (KLAS), a special fund for the benefit of young people from low income families.

Outside perspective can improve growth

GOVERNMENT initiative GrowthAccelerator will be represented at Kent 2020.

It has been set up to assist companies in creating a growth plan. Each company works with an expert coach who supports them with everything from access to finance, to creating a sales and marketing strategy

Kevin Nicholson, growth manager across Kent, said: "Many businesses we work with have grown steadily since inception, but there can be further opportunities to accelerate this growth which we can help them to exploit.

"However, the service isn't just for companies who know what the growth opportunities are. Our role is to also help businesses identify opportunities which can sometimes be hidden or less obvious. Getting outsider perspective can be invaluable."

Lipscomb looks Stateside as Chrysler and Jeep joins dealer

MAIDSTONE-BASED Lipscomb Cars has added the Chrysler and Jeep brands to their stable, reinforcing the company's links with Fiat Group Auto (FGA).

The Italian motor giant acquired the two US-based iconic companies after the general bail-out of the American motor business, authorised by Barack Obama.

Since the 2008 rescue deal, both companies have seen a resurgence in the US market and worldwide, especially as they have taken advantage of better technologies available for engines.

The brands are the leading motor manufacturers still based in the original motor city of Detroit, which has seen much of its design and manufacturing industry stagnating over recent decades. However, in the last five years both brands have seen their market share grow consistently.

Peter Barnes, managing director at Lipscomb, said: "We are delighted to add this iconic brand to our stable, further strengthening our relationship with FGA.

"This is a good fit within our portfolio, allowing us to offer vehicles across all the sectors in the UK."

Lipscomb Cars now represent Volvo, Lotus, Alfa Romeo, Fiat, Abarth and now Chrysler with Jeep operating businesses in Maidstone, Ashford and Canterbury.

NEW: Lipscomb Cars now has Chrysler and Jeep in its showroom

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

MPs join business talk on export opportunities

HOW increasing exports can boost business is the topic to be under discussion at an event set for Friday, April 26.

Exporting for Growth will take place at the Mercure Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, from 8.30-11.00am.

Speakers will include Michael Fallon MP, Greg Clark MP and experts from UK Trade and Investment.

Heating firm glowing after deal worth £1.1m

SWALE Heating has signed a deal to supply gas heating services to housing associations responsible for nearly 10,000 homes across the south east through contractor United House.

The contract is believed to be worth around £1.1 million and involves housing stock which was formerly the property of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council as well as homes in the Mole Valley, Surrey.

Crossrail developing a concrete connection

A NEW Crossrail tunnel segment manufacturing facility at Chatham is currently producing and shipping the 110,000 concrete segments to line the eastern tunnels of the firm's new route.

The Chatham Dockyard factory site, which created 120 jobs, was selected due to its location, allowing the products to be delivered by barge to the entrance of Crossrail's eastern tunnels near Canning Town.

Major work to upgrade station at Gravesend

A £19 MILLION project to upgrade Gravesend station is set to start in the coming weeks and will take place over a one-year period.

Plans are to improve station facilities and lengthen platforms so longer trains can be accommodated.

Network Rail and Southeastern say disruption will be kept to a minimum, but some platform closures are anticipated.

Numbers up as Port of Dover shows growth

THE Port of Dover has released figures showing a good first quarter, with growth significant across passenger and vehicle traffic.

Compared to the same period a year ago, passenger numbers increased 6.5 per cent to 2,135,295; coach traffic increased by 13.8 per cent to 15,640; and road haulage vehicles were up 6.7 per cent to 518,979. Cruise operator Aida has announced it is also to use the port.

Wealden business has new man at the helm

DAVID Meredith, senior partner at Tenterden-based accountants Busbys, has been elected as chairman of the Wealden Business Group.

He trained as an accountant with Day, Smith & Hunter in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells, and joined Busbys in 1988.

Mr Meredith said: "My goal is to continue establishing the group as the premier business networking organisation in the area."

NEW HOMES

homes24.co.uk

NewBuy offers a way ahead for the market

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE Government has offered incentives to both developers and mortgage-lenders as part of its NewBuy scheme.

Aimed at first-time buyers, it has provided a way for people to get on to the housing ladder by requiring they put down just 5 per cent of the total value of their mortgage.

This is a smaller deposit than is normally required. The scheme allows more borrowers to secure up to a 95 per cent loan-to-value mortgage on new-build properties, including houses and flats from participating builders in England. All mortgage-lenders and house-builders are welcome to join the scheme.

The initiative, launched on March 12, 2012, has been developed jointly by the Home Builders Federation and the Council of Mortgage Lenders. The Government says that it is supporting the scheme to help those home-buyers who have found themselves excluded from sections of the market because they don't have a large enough deposit.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is now working on a package to extend the programme beyond new properties to the existing homes market, enabling home-owners with limited or negative equity to make use of the support.

As well as providing a much-needed boost to the housing market, the scheme is also aimed at increasing jobs and contracts in the building and construction industries, which have suffered since the financial climate stalled in 2008.

ON THE LADDER: The NewBuy scheme aims to assist home-buyers into a new property as well as give the construction industry a much-needed boost

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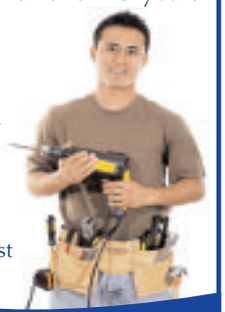

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Honda's latest deal for personal customers
- Warranty deal gives value pick-up a boost
- Nissan Juke loads up on technology

Super-cool stylings of the latest RCZ from Peugeot

Driving

Powered by motors.co.uk

drive24.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FIRST DRIVE

CITROËN DS3

Price: from £15,045
Driving appeal: ★★★★★
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Mini Convertible

Classy little Cabrio ices DS3 cake

ONCE dismissed as too quirky, Citroën is enjoying a wonderful renaissance in the UK with a mixture of its traditional flair and modern market nous.

This is epitomised by the sharply-styled DS3 supermini, which revived the prestige and upmarket ambience of the DS line-up of the 1950s-70s and has spearheaded a sales drive that saw the French marque boost volumes by 15 per cent in the first two months of this year – DS3 sales alone rose 42 per cent.

These seem set to climb still higher with the timely spring arrival of the elegant DS3 Cabrio spin-off.

Like one of its rivals, the Fiat 500C, it isn't a true convertible because the roof only rolls back electrically, but this has several positives.

Firstly, without the need to substantially re-engineer the car, the cabrio retains most of the verve, practicality and style of its hatchback sister: the trademark centre pillar is retained and, without the need to retract a full-fabric roof, boot space is not compromised much – it's the biggest in its class.

It also retains decent cabin space, allowing it to be the sector's only five-seater convertible, a marked contrast to the 500C and the newcomer's other key rival, the well-established Mini Convertible – both confirmed four-seaters.

To be honest, it would be pretty cramped for three across the back, but for the young set that the car particularly appeals to – 80 per cent will be female – that won't matter too much.

The second big bonus from the roll-back roof is that its aerodynamic benefits over a normal convertible roof mean it can be opened and closed at speed – real speed. That means up to 75mph, compared with the 500C's 37mph and Mini's 20mph limit.

And the cabin is a refined place to be if you want to drive open-top. On the other hand, you can get as close as you want to the full convertible wind-in-the-hair experience by simply opening the windows.

The third key issue is that the DS3 Cabrio is just 25 kilos heavier than its sister, with similar rigidity, thereby causing very little harm to the pleasant driving dynamics of the car.

It remains a good blend of responsiveness with stiffness in cornering yet without a jarring ride.

Of course there are small compromises: the boot-opening is awkward and vision via the rear-view mirror is poor with roof up or down.

But the smart upmarket DS dashboard, fixtures and fittings and seating of the hatchback car are retained. Plus there is the same high level of customisation options beyond what is a generous spec across three manual- gearbox petrol-engine powertrain/trim options, starting at a not unreasonable £15,045 for the 1.2-litre DSign VTi 82 – the DSport THP 155 flagship costs £19,675.

SUPER STYLING: The roll-back roof means the latest DS3 can act like a convertible at top speeds while also looking rather fine to keep drivers happy

DON'T LIKE

... the roll-back roof approach as such – but can see how well it works for the DS3, with very little compromise to the car's inherent style.

NOT SURE

... it will find it easy in a market where the Mini Convertible and Fiat 500C are already making hay, but the DS3 hatch is a big seller, so maybe...

REALLY LIKE

... the overall product, which seems good value and lays to rest, at last, memories of Citroën's dreadful Pluriel convertible of a few years ago.

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Coupé turns on more style

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS with any facelift, nips and tucks for cars can be tricky, especially if the original 'physog' was attractive anyway.

But Peugeot got it right with a reworking for its stunning RCZ coupé a few months back, most obviously with a sleeker front end that does away with what now seems a clumsy black bumper-bar on pre-facelift cars.

The new-look grille also follows the new corporate line pioneered on the 508 family/company model and highlighted on the new 208 supermini, the car spearheading a spirited UK sales drive that saw the French marque's registrations rise 6.3 per cent in the first quarter of this year against the same period in 2012.

But if the 208 has lifted Peugeot's image, it's fair to say that the RCZ laid the foundations after its sensational arrival in 2010, symbolising a new ambition and desire to climb the global car rankings.

Audi's acclaimed TT was the most obvious target for the audacious Peugeot, except that the RCZ starts at just £21,595 against the German model's £24,490 starting price.

Spec levels on the RCZ are also generous, with the £23,995 1.6-litre GT tested here being laden with standard 'extras' such as powered and heated front seats, leather upholstery, parking aids and stunning 19-inch alloys.

You even get folding back seats, allowing the rear of the cabin to be crammed far more than you might expect with that curvaceous roof; Peugeot has even proved that you could lay a mountain bike down across the 760-litre load space when the rear seats are down. Boot space with seats up is 309 litres, which compares favourably with the 348 offered by Peugeot's 308 family hatchback.

The reality of buying a coupé soon hits you, though, almost literally, if you sit in the back as the trademark swooping roofline – exagerrated by those lovely aluminium roof arches – is too restrictive even for adults of average height.

Getting in and out of the back also requires an agility that's best left to the kids; far better to admire that roof from some distance, where you can appreciate the stylish double-bubble design that also channels rain and spray down the middle of the rear screen and helps keep it clear.

On the road, the RCZ is a fun car that is also economical and practical for long journeys.

It steers and handles as crisply as it looks, aided by a tidy six-speed manual change.

Sports-car purists might moan that it's not rear-wheel-drive, but that would have hiked up the cost.

All versions I've driven feel light yet well planted, even the 163bhp 2.0-litre diesel engine (from £23,430, 0-62mph in 8.7 seconds and 53.2mpg on the official combined cycle), but the best are the two 1.6-litre petrol units: apart from the test car's 156bhp (0-62mph in 8.3 seconds and 44.1mpg) there is a 200bhp alternative (0-62mph in 7.6 seconds and 42.1mpg).

There is no penalty to pay for the car's ability to tame a fast and winding route, either; the ride quality is impressive for such a capable sports car and the cabin is not a bad place to be.

Peugeot has made big quality strides here and there is even decent storage space, but then the RCZ had to deliver premium fixtures and fittings and a good control layout to compete at this level.

The RCZ is also quite environmentally-friendly for a sportster, with the test car emitting 149g/km of CO_2 (£135-a-year road tax), though the diesel will be the most attractive to company-car user-choosers, with its £125-a-year tax and better economy.

PEUGEOT RCZ GT THP 156: £23,995

STUNNING: Peugeot's restyled RCZ continues to impress as it further develops the brand's new corporate line

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£135/year
Best rival:	VW Scirocco

Kent dealers:
Motorline Peugeot
Canterbury 01227 451791
Robins & Day
Maidstone 01622 753333
Rochester 01634 842231

First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

Top offers from Honda

HONDA has launched an attractive zero per cent APR PCP (personal contract purchase) deal on the highly-popular British-built Jazz 1.2 supermini and Civic 1.4 family hatchback.

It's the flagship offer in a package of tempting deals from the Japanese marque, which manufactures the bulk of its range for the UK at Swindon, including the new fourth-generation CR-V SUV.

Warranty picks up car appeal

BRITAIN'S cheapest pick-up – the Chinese-made Great Wall Steed – has become an even better buy, with the offer of a six-year/125,000-mile warranty if bought before June 30.

The entry-level Steed S £13,998 is the most affordable 4x4 double-cab pick-up, but the Steed Chrome and Tracker are probably better value at £14,998, due to equipment levels.

More tech for Nissan Juke

NISSAN has a new gadget-laden N-Tec version of its Juke junior crossover, for £16,295.

Tipped to be the Juke line-up's new best-seller, it features 18-inch black and silver alloys, gloss-black centre console and door trim, plus new-generation Nissan Connect system with 5.8-inch infotainment screen and Google Send-To-Car, allowing owners to plan and send their routes to the car before leaving.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO2 emissions: 324 - 88g/km.

Images shown for illustration purposes only. Models shown may have optional extras available at an extra cost. Terms and conditions apply. On the road prices include number plates, delivery, Vehicle Excise Duty, first registration fee and VAT. Offers are subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Cascada Elite 1.4i 16v VVT Turbo (140PS) Start/Stop: Urban: 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban: 51.4 (5.5), Combined: 44.8 (6.3). CO_2 emissions 149g/km.

Model shown Cascada Elite 1.4i 16v VVT Turbo (140PS) Start/Stop £26,100 with 20" Alloy Wheels £1,000, Two-coat Pearlescent Paint £525, Front Parking Distance Sensors £385, Premium Forward Lighting Pack £790, Premium Leather Pack £1,200. Total OTR cost £30,000. Prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.vauxhall.co.uk/warranty

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Application by completion of Application Form only.
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Deadline: Friday 3 May 2013

St Lawrence College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and expects all staff to share this commitment

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All applications to be submitted by 30th April 2013
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For further information please contact
Mr Toby Woods or Mr Gary Matthews
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If you are enthusiastic, committed and keen to develop your skills, we have a position that may suit you.

We require a full time Assistant Management Information Officer for 37 hours per week, term time only to start as soon as possible. Salary will be NJC D2 point 12.

The Assistant Management Information Officer duties will be to assist with Assessment, Reporting and Recording as well as shadowing the Examinations Officer.

The post would suit someone with a sound knowledge of Excel spread-sheet formula and an understanding of Access Data Base would be preferable but training would be given to the right candidate.

OFSTED awarded the school an outstanding grade in every category in our most recent inspection, commenting that "students thrive within its distinctive ethos, enabling them to succeed academically and to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared extremely well for their future lives."

If you are interested in working for the benefit of bright, talented pupils and have a team ethos, then please contact the P A to the Associate Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, email harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

The Williamson Trust currently consists of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, the Hundred of Hoo Academy, High Halstow Primary Academy, Elaine Primary Academy and finally St James Primary as a co-sponsored academy all providing exceptional career development opportunities.

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.

Closing date for applications – Friday, 3rd May 2013

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Previous knowledge of SEN teaching preferable.
Comprehensive induction and training will be provided.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing date: 26th April 2013

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE EXPANSION OF HARRIETSHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, WEST STREET, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME17 1JZ

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kent County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Harrietsham Church of England Primary School, West Street, Harrietsham, Maidstone, Kent ME17 1JZ from 1 September 2014.

It is proposed to expand the school by 10 places per year group, taking the total capacity of the school to 210 places. The school will admit 30 children into Year R in September 2014 and subsequent years, taking seven years for the school to grow. The Local Authority will implement the proposal.

The current capacity of the school is 140 and the proposed capacity will be 210. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 143. The current admission number for the school is 20 and the proposed admission number will be 30.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from David Adams, Area Education Officer - Telephone 01233 898559.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to David Adams, Area Education Officer, Mid Kent Education Office, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU. The closing date for objections and comments is 19 May 2013.

Signed: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director
Education, Learning & Skills
Publication Date: 21 April 2013

Explanatory Note

Due to local pressure this year and in view of the positive public response to enlarge the school, the decision has been made to put in an additional 10 reception places for September 2013

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 116 STOPPING UP OF LAND AT Yardhurst Gardens, Margate

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Canterbury Magistrates Court on 4th June 2013 at 10:00am for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land adjacent to Yardhurst Gardens as highlighted on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent County Council at Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund at Kent County Council Highways and Transportation in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre).

JOHN BURR
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION
Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund
Ashford Highway Depot
Henwood Industrial Estate
Javelin Way
Ashford
Kent TN24 8AD

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

KARL WHALD trading as MBS (Gillingham LTD) of Sarena House Bredgar Road Gillingham Kent ME8 6PL is applying to add an operating centre to keep 4 goods vehicles at Sarena House, Bredgar Road, Gillingham, Kent ME8 6PL

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide To Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

KARL WHALD trading as Mitcham Building Suppliers LTD of MBS House, 80 Eddington Lane, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 5TR is applying to add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles at MBS House, 80 Eddington Lane, Hewrn Bay, Kent, CT6 5TR

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide To Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Notice of application for the grant of a sexual entertainment venue licence in pursuant to schedule 3-control of sexual entertainment venues Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended). Take notice that on 12 April 2013 Natasha Gaul applied to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for a sexual entertainment venue licence in respect of The Harp, 218 Hale Street, East Peckham, Kent TN12 5JB.

DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday to Sundays inclusive from 12:00 hours until 24:00 hours.

The application may be inspected at the offices of Licensing Services, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ. Any person wishing to make objections on the application shall do so in writing at the Council Offices to the Licensing Manager, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ or by email at licensing.services@tmbc.gov.uk. The grounds of the objection must be stated in general terms. The objection must be received by the Council no later than 3 May 2013.

Notice under Article 11 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

Proposed development at land north (rear) of 7, 9 and 11, Ashford Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5BJ.

Take notice that application is being made to Maidstone Borough Council by Dashwood Estates Ltd for planning permission for the formation of extension to existing car park for commercial use for temporary period including formation of new access and egress.

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Council at:
Maidstone House
King Street
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 6JQ
Within 21 days of the date of this notice.
Signed: Ms Anna Bloomfield
Date: 21st April 2013

Statement of owners' rights: The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or lease.

Statement of agricultural tenants' rights: The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.

'Owner' means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years. 'Tenant' means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

PLANNING

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0303/SH - 13 Grace Hill Folkestone Kent CT20 1HA - Change of use and conversion of existing first, second and third floor offices to five self-contained flats, including first and second floor level extensions to rear, construction of enlarged dormer window to rear roof slope, installation of replacement windows to front elevation and alterations to ground floor shopfront.

Y13/0266/SH+ - 6 - 8 Bank Street Hythe Kent CT21 5AN - Retrospective application for the change of use from A1 retail to a coffee shop and cafe (Class A3).

Y13/0289/SH - Land adjacent 47 Links Way Linksway Folkestone Kent - Section 73 application for the variation of condition 13 of planning permission Y12/1062/SH for the erection of a non-food retail warehouse unit (2654 sqm gross internal floor area including first and mezzanine floors) and provision of associated accesses, parking, service yard, landscaping and associated works, to allow extension of hours of use of the premises from 08.00 to 20.00 hours Monday to Saturday and between 10.00 to 18.00 hours Sundays and Bank Holidays to 07.00 to 20.00 hours Monday to Saturday and Bank Holidays and 10.00 to 18.00 hours Sundays.

Y13/0268/SH - 52 The Bayle Folkestone Kent CT20 1SJ - Installation of 5 rooflights in the side elevation roof slopes, following construction of replacement roof.

Y13/0317/SH+ - Kintail Manor Rectory Lane Saltwood Hythe Kent - Felling of two Cypress trees and one Sycamore tree, situated within a conservation area.

Y13/0193/SH - 70 - 72 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2AA - Display of one internally illuminated fascia sign, one internally illuminated projecting sign and two illuminated ATM surrounds.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/SE/0109/2013 - Proposed development at Cowden Exploration Site, Field No. 0002 Claydene Farm, Off Hartfield Road, Cowden, Edenbridge, Kent.

Cuadrilla Resources Limited is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for Section 73 Application to vary conditions (29) and (30) of planning permission SE/98/234 to retain entrance 'Bellmouth' off the B2026 and access track leading to the drill site for continued agricultural use by the landowner.

You may view this application at Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 21st April 2013

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

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PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/00754/FUL **Springhill Farm, Standen Street, Benenden**
- Demolition of existing garage; Erection of detached double garage and new turning area with change of use of agricultural land to residential (LB)

13/00745/FUL **Woodlands Farm, Short Lane, Brenchley**
- Change of use of annexe to holiday let (PROW)

13/00796/HOUSE **Motley House, Petteridge Lane, Brenchley**
- Two storey rear extension. Rear conservatory. Re-modelling of front door entrance (LB)

13/00803/LBC **1 Nevill Park, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater**
- Listed Building Consent: Reconfiguration of lower ground floor terrace to the rear of the property and improve access to the basement, replace approved doors and window with glazed screen and doors. Reconfiguration of steps up to rear garden and reconfiguration of terrace and steps around the lower ground floor terrace at the rear. Replacement of front balcony flat roof with lead and stone parapet (LB)

13/00777/FUL **Oast House At Park Farm, Capel**
- Minor Material Amendment of TW/11/03569 - Conversion of Oast House to detached dwelling - amendments to elevations and internal arrangement (TW/10/00970 refers) - replace drawing no MA/HE/PF/07/33/C with drawing MA/HE/PF/07/33D 3 bay garage with 2 open bays and 1 closed bay, the detached brick store which is now omitted (LB)

13/00788/HOUSE **Collins Place, The Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Removal of conservatory and replacement with single storey rear extension (CA) (LB)

13/00789/LBC **Collins Place, The Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of conservatory and replacement with single storey rear extension (LB)

13/00813/HOUSE **Catherine Wheel Barn, Sand Lane, Frittenden**
- Alterations to existing annexe/garage outbuilding (LB)

13/00815/LBC **Catherine Wheel Barn, Sand Lane, Frittenden**
- Listed Building Consent: Alterations to existing annexe/garage outbuilding (LB)

13/00750/HOUSE **Beresford Lodge, Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Oak-framed porch extension to rear (LB)

13/00751/LBC **Beresford Lodge, Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Oak-framed porch extension to rear (LB)

13/00806/FULMJ **Hawkhurst Castle, Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst**
- Extension of Time: Demolition of existing building, and the erection of a C2 elderly person care home with 65 beds and 11 C2 assisted living cottages for the over 60s and realignment of the Heartenoak Road (TW/11/00003/FULMJ refers) (MAJOR)

13/00771/HOUSE **Gate House, Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden**
- Removal of existing porch. First floor extension, orangery/sun room and internal alterations (LB)

13/00773/LBC **Gate House, Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden**
- Listed building consent - removal of existing porch. First floor extension, orangery/sun room and internal alterations (LB)

13/00700/HOUSE **24 Mountfield Gardens, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Front, rear and side extensions; Exterior cladding and changes to fenestration; New detached garage (CA)

13/00715/HOUSE **7 Ryders, Langton Green, Speldhurst**
- Single-storey side extension to create annexe and single-storey rear extension (PROW)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 20 April 2013

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00261	Erection of 24 dwellings, construction of vehicular access and associated car parking (existing buildings to be demolished) **Former Barwick Site, Coombe Valley Road, Dover CT17 0EY**	**MAJ**
DOV/13/00263	Renewal of Listed Building Consent DOV/10/00245 for erection of a rear conservatory extension and internal alterations to facilitate change of use to a self-contained flat **20 Castle Street, Dover, CT16 1PW**	**LCN**
DOV/13/00244	Change of use of stables to 3 holiday lets, erection of detached garage with log store, outbuilding and creation of tennis court **Little Ewell, Barfrestone, Eythorne, Dover CC15 7JJ**	**LCN**
DOV13/00245	Replacement of doors and windows and associated internal works, change of use of stable to provide 3 holiday lets **Little Ewell, Barfrestone, Eythorne, Dover CC15 7JJ**	**LCN**
DOV/13/00274	Alterations to windows, installation of access doors, cast iron drain pipe and rendering of north and south elevations **Eythorne House, Coldred Road, Eythorne, Dover CT15 4BE**	**LCN**
DOV/13/00247	Erection of a rear conservatory extension and extension to existing porch **Gate Cottage, The Street, Frogham, Nonington CT15 7JA**	**LCN**
DOV/13/00262	Erection of a rear conservatory extension and extension to existing porch **Gate Cottage, The Street, Frogham, Nonington CT15 7JA**	**LCN**
DOV/13/00253	Erection of a two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and porch **22 Beresford Road, River, Dover, CT17 0QR**	**CAF**
DOV/13/00204	Conversion of garage to habitable room, erection of single storey side and rear extensions (existing conservatory to be demolished) **2 Yew Tree Close, Deal, CT14 9UX**	**CAF**
DOV/13/00226	Erection of single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to habitable room **8 Grams Road, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7NT**	**CON**

Reason for Advert Codes:-

CAF - Affects a Conservation Area
MAJ - Major Development
CON - In a Conservation Area
LCN - Listed Building in a Conservation Area

SOME APPLICATIONS ARE NOT PUBLICISED IN THIS LIST. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent within 21 days marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

FAILURE TO MEET THE ABOVE DEADLINE MAY JEOPARDISE THE CHANCES OF REPRESENTATIONS BEING CONSIDERED. ANY REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY THE PUBLIC, AND MAY BE COPIED TO OTHERS, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE APPLICANT IF THERE IS AN APPEAL AGAINST THE COUNCIL'S DECISION. REPRESENTATIONS WILL NOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED UNTIL AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN DETERMINED.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

To advertise in this section
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Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//13/00577/FUL: 82 St Dunstans Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AD Replacement of existing single-storey outbuildings with two-storey extension to the flat above shop and addition of a high level dormer and a lower level window facing the rear in the existing building. **Applicant: Ms Jones** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00589/FUL: Paigles, 6 Bushy Hill Road, Westbere, CT2 0HE Excavation of the soil to the rear of the property at ground level to create a room under the first floor extension, single-storey extension to side and provision of decking at first floor with associated external alterations. **Applicant: Mr Carroll** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00597/FUL: 24 Watling Street, Canterbury, CT1 2UD Existing external bin store to be removed in full and new bin store to be created. Existing timber gate to be removed and new wrought iron gates to be added. New decorations to external wall within drinking area, new lighting added and new TV positioned to external wall. Internal refurbishment including removal of existing items and inclusion of new fixed seating and booth seating as well as new timber drink shelves and screens. New internal lighting points generally throughout interior. New lighting points to window positions. New external lights to suit separate application from Ashleigh Signs. **Applicant: Spirit Pub Company** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00606/FUL: 8 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2JH Conversion and refurbishment of upper floors (1st and 2nd) from Use Class A2 (financial services) to 4 no residential studios/flats (Use Class C3 residential). **Applicant: Capita Trust Company Ltd** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00612/FUL: 1 Dane John Mews, Castle Row, Canterbury, CT1 2RW Replacement windows, patio door and front door. **Applicant: Mr G Craib** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00625/FUL: 133 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3SE Single-storey rear kitchen extension **Applicant: Mr Brownlie** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00632/ADV: 22-24 Stour Street, Canterbury, CT1 2NZ Non-illuminated hanging sign at first floor level **Applicant: Conker Conservation Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00636/FUL: Land rear of Pilgrims Mede, Summer Hill, Harbledown, CT2 8NJ Revised replacement dwelling application from approval CA/12/00765 **Applicant: Mr Tilley** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00637/FUL: Lawn Cottage, Oxenden Square, Herne Bay, CT6 8TN Extension to existing dwelling **Applicant: Mr Coleman** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00639/FUL: The Radfall, Summer Lane, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NH Two-storey side extension with single-storey rear extension **Applicant: Mr P Stratton** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00642/VAR: Land south of 24 The Street, Adisham, CT3 3JL Variation of condition 14 relating to code for sustainable homes and reducing requirement from Code Level 4 to Code Level 3 of planning permission CA/11/01984/FUL. **Applicant: Fourth Green Developments** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00644/FUL: 2-3 Orange Street, Canterbury, CT1 2JA Proposed change of use from retail to residential. Two 2 bedroom flats, one 3 bedroom flat and two 3 bedroom houses. **Applicant: Mr Thompson and Mr Roffey** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00647/LB: 19 Dover Street, Canterbury, CT1 3HD Removal of unstable modern brick work within internal historic frame and replacement with stud work with plaster finish. **Applicant: Mr Gillam** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/00661/FUL: Park View, Sturry A single-storey building comprising hall and ancillary rooms as a community centre for the residents of the Parish of Sturry. Creation of associated car parking, multi-use games and skateboarding/bmx areas and relocation of children's play area. **Applicant: Sturry Parish Council** Reason: Major development.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 13 May 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 19 April 2013

PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
In the Borough of Maidstone
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2013
(PROHIBITION OF LOADING) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2013
(PROHIBITION OF WAITING) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2013
(STREET PARKING PLACES) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, has made experimental Orders the effect of which have temporarily suspended various restrictions in Mill Street and the High Street from its junction with Mill Street south westwards, to its junction of Fairmeadow (A229), Maidstone for a period of up to 18 months and replaced them with experimental waiting, loading and access restrictions. This work is connected with environmental highway improvements in the High Street which has been the subject of earlier consultations.

The purpose of carrying out consultation on experimental restrictions is to enable the proposals to be flexible so that all of the needs of the community are met. In the event that the Council considers the experiment has been successful during a period of operation not exceeding 18 months from commencement, and that it should be made permanent, a further Notice will be published.

As a part of this process, representations can be made by individuals and organisations affected by the proposals either in support or to highlight concerns, during the period of operation of the experimental Orders. This will be a minimum of sixth months and could be up to a maximum of eighteen months from Friday 27th April 2012.

The proposals for the Maidstone High Street Public Realm Project aim to improve how the High Street looks, feels and works. The completed scheme will see less road space given over to vehicles and a new public space created in front of the Town Hall.

Entry for all motorised vehicles will be maintained into the High Street allowing traffic flow to travel along Mill Street and exit onto the existing one way system. Access via Pudding Lane, has been maintained into the High Street and King Street for buses, taxis, goods vehicles for loading and unloading and cycles only and into Mill Street. Entry into Mill Street from its junction with Palace Avenue will remain for buses and cyclists only.

Restrictions to be suspended are as follows:

High Street:	Prohibition of Driving in Bus Lanes, No entry Except for Buses (Lower Section - Southbound & Northern Section - Both Directions), Prohibition of Loading, Designated Disabled Person's Vehicles Parking Places, Designated Taxi Parking Places, Designated Goods Vehicle Parking Places, Prohibition of Waiting.
Mill Street (Part)	Prohibition of Loading, Designated Parking Places at Pay and Display Machines, Designated Disabled Person's Vehicles Parking Places, Designated Motor Cycle Parking Places, Designated Coach Parking Places, Designated Goods Vehicle Parking Places, Prohibition of Waiting.

Exemptions are provided in the Orders to enable a vehicle to wait with Police permission, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent to the roads affected by the proposals, for use by the emergency services and by any local authority or water authority and for access to off street facilities, car parking areas and vehicular accesses.

Copies of the Experimental Orders which shall come into operation on Monday 22nd April 2013 for an experimental period of not more than 18 months, an explanatory statement and plan showing the extent of the proposals can be inspected during normal working hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone Kent, ME14 1XQ and at Maidstone Borough Council Offices, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6HQ.

Diane Bourne has been commissioned to work in partnership with The Kent County Council to collate views on the proposed measures during the experimental period. As previously stated, organisations or individuals affected by the proposals have a statutory right to make representations either in support or to raise concerns about the experimental orders during the first six months of its operation.

All representations regarding the proposals should be made during the period of the experimental orders in writing to Diane Bourne, 24 Robson Drive, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7JR or by email to dbourne.engineering@gmail.com, quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B1742500

John Burr, Director for Kent Highways
County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/13/0425/S - 2, CHURCH VILLAS, CHURCH STREET, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BX - Retrospective application for installation of 2(no) wooden double glazed windows to the rear elevation (first and second floors). **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/0457/N - LITTLE SOUTH STREET COTTAGE, SOUTH STREET ROAD, STOCKBURY, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME9 7RB - Application for listed building consent for the erection of a single storey extension with link to main house. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0483/N - 31, EARL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1PF - Partial demolition, alterations, extension and change of use of building to a mixed use comprising a restaurant (Use Class A3), an office (Use Class A2) and ancillary residential use (Use Class C3). **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/0484/N - 31, EARL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1PF - Listed building consent for partial demolition, alterations and extension (being works involved in the change of use of building to a mixed use of a restaurant (Use Class A3), an office (Use Class A2) and ancillary residential use (Use Class C3). **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0499/S - ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, HIGH STREET, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HJ - Retrospective planning permission for the installation of broadband receiver/transmitter on tower roof. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:

1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.

2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.

3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **5th May 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 21st April 2013

To advertise in this section
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THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
In the Borough of Maidstone
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE)
(NO RIGHT AND LEFT HAND TURNS) ORDER 2011
(PROHIBITION OF ENTRY) ORDER 2011
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2011
(PROHIBITION OF LOADING) ORDER 2011
(PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2011
(STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2011
(HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE) (ONE WAY) ORDER 2011
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, having considered all representations made in connection with the above named Orders, has decided that some of the provisions contained within the Orders should be made permanent. The temporarily suspended restrictions in Bank Street, High Street, King Street and Pudding Lane, Maidstone which have been replaced with new waiting, loading and access restrictions have therefore been revoked. This work is connected with environmental highway improvements in the High Street which has been the subject of earlier consultations

Following on from the consultation which began in April 2012 on the proposals for experimental restrictions in the High Street, Maidstone, area, the Kent County Council has decided the experiment for the north eastern section of the scheme from Mill Street to Wyke Manor Road has been successful and has therefore been made permanent.

The south western section of the scheme including Mill Street and the High Street from Mill Street south westwards, to its junction of Fairmeadow (A229) has been abandoned and new proposals detailing a less restrictive experiment will be advertised and consulted on in due course.

Exemptions are provided in the Orders to enable a vehicle to wait with Police permission, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent to the roads affected by the proposals, for use by the emergency services and by any local authority or water authority and for access to off street facilities, car parking areas and vehicular accesses.

Copies of the Orders which shall come into operation Monday 22nd April 2013 showing the extent of the scheme can be inspected during normal working hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone Kent, ME14 1XQ and at Maidstone Borough Council Offices, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6HQ, or are available to view on the Kent County Council website

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

John Burr,
Director for Kent Highways

County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XQ

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

DOV/12/00440- Additional information, inculding further information in support of the Environmental Statement relating to outline application for a major mixed use development at Western Heights & Farthingloe, Dover.

The proposal is a major development, departure from the development plan, affects public rights of way, affects the setting of a listed building, affects a conservation area and is accompanied by an Environmental Statement

I give notice that China Gateway International Plc are/is applying to the Dover District Council for planning permission for:

1) Outline permission (with all matters reserved except access) for construction of:
   a. Up to 521 residential units (Use Class C3);
   b. Up to 9,335sqm 90 apartment retirement village (Use Class C2);
   c. Up to 730sqm health facility (Use Class D2);
   d. Conversion of thatched barn to pub/restaurant (Use Class A4/A3);
   e. Conversion of stable block to retail shop (Use Class A1/A2); and
   f. Conversion of farmhouse to bed & breakfast (Use Class C1)
   together with associated landscaping and ancillary infrastructure and works at Great Farthingloe Farm, Dover.

2) Outline permission (with all matters reserved) for:
   a. Construction of up to 7,400sqm 130 bed hotel & 150 person conference centre (Class C1); and
   b. Conversion of the Drop Redoubt to a Museum/Visitor Centre (Use Class D1)
   together with associated landscaping and ancillary infrastructure and works at land at Western Heights, Dover.

3) Outline permission (with all matters reserved except layout and access) for:
   a. Construction of up to 31 residential units (Use Class C3); and
   b. Reconstruction of the Victoria Halls to provide 9 residential units (Use Class C3)
   together with associated landscaping and ancillary infrastructure and works at land at Western Heights, Dover.

4) Provision of pedestrian access network to facilitate enhanced recreation access together with associated landscaping and works on land at Great Farthingloe Farm and Western Heights, Dover

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, plans and any other submitted documents via the Council's website at **www.dover.gov.uk/planning** or at:- Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday and Dover Area Office, Castle Street, Dover until 10/05/2013

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to Planning, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent CT16 3PJ quoting reference number **DOV/12/00440** by 03/05/2013.

The Council will not normally enter into correspondence with the public on applications. There will be no response until the application has been determined.

Please note - All previous representations received on this application will be considered prior to any decision being made. There is no need for you to write again to repeat the points you have already made.

Failure to meet this deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered.

PLANNING

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 6 MAY 2013.

SW/13/0224:
Refurbishment of existing external macadam surfaced sports facility and install a 3G artificial surface to enable junior football, organised training and recreational play plus new goals, replacement rebound boards to ball-stop fencing and improved clean access - London Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1& 2**

SW/13/0265:
Two storey side and rear extension - 99 The Street, NEWNHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0280:
Listed Building Consent for small single storey extension to rear elevation - internal remodelling to incorporate an unused area of the house and provide a better layout; and associated works to drainage - Graveney Court Farm, Seasalter Road, GRAVENEY; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0282:
Internal re-allocation of space and a single storey rear extension - 13 Becketts Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0325 & SW/13/0326:
Demolition of existing single storey side extension, and one and two storey rear extensions. Proposed single storey side extension, two storey rear extension with balcony, front canopy and first floor side window - 33 South Street, QUEENBOROUGH; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0330:
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission NK/8/50/126 to allow occupation of the caravan park 1st March to 3rd January - Warden Bay Caravan Park, Warden Bay Road, LEYSDOWN-ON-SEA; **REASON 3**

SW/13/0375:
Change of use from clothing shop to beauty shop - 73 High Street, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1, 2 & 4**

SW/13/0399 & SW/13/0400:
Change of use of part of 1-2 Limes Place from B1 (business) use to A5 (hot food takeaway) use; the extension of 1-2 Limes Place; and its use as 5 residential properties - 1-2 Limes Place, Preston Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 6**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

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MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC NOTICE

A building certified for worship named The Eden Church, The Eden Centre, Four Elms Road, Edenbridge in the registration district of Kent, in the Non-Metropolitan County of Kent, was on 7th March 2013 registered for solemnising marriages therein pursuant to section 41 of the Marriage Act 1949 as amended by Section1 (1) of the Marriage Acts Amendment Act, 1958.

Superintendent Registrar
15 April 2013

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE BYWAY KH167 IN THE PARISH OF HOLLINGBOURNE

BYWAY KH167 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Byway KH167 between NGR TQ 822 572 at Pilgrims Way and NGR TQ 826 579 at Coldharbour Lane from 15th April 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it may reopen sooner depending on completion of repair works.

The path is closed because sections of the path are damaged and impassable, and there is a likelihood of danger to the public.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Katie Cullen

Contact Centre Tel: 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

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NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF AN ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM40

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM40) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on the 29th October 2012, the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Footpath KM40 has been extended for a further 6 months until 29th October 2013, or completion of the works, whichever is earlier.

The path is closed between Workhouse Lane (near Stockett lane) and Franklins Cottages / Dane Lodge Barn, Workhouse Lane (NGR TQ 742 520).

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact David Munn on: 01732 872829 (option1)

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SHEPWAY

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS HL5, HL2/HR4 IN THE PARISHES OF LYDD AND NEW ROMNEY

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS HL5, HL2/HR4 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath HL5, between its junction with Harden Road and its junction with footpath HL7 at NGR TR072, 206 and Public Footpaths HL2/HR4 between Romney Road and Church Road from the 15th April 2013.

The paths will be closed for six months, although it is expected that the planned works will take nine months and an extension to this closure will be required.

The paths are to be closed to facilitate the installation of a replacement water supply pipeline between Denge Water Treatment Works and New Romney and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route available.

For detailed enquiries please contact Edward Denne on 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 21st April 2013

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

BUTCHERY LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the safe placement of scaffolding for maintenance works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Butchery Lane, Canterbury, on or after 22 April 2013 for up to 10 weeks or until the works have been completed.

There is no suitable alternative route.

HIGH STREET & MOAT LANE, FORDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street and Moat Lane, Fordwich, on or after 22 April 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:00 hours until 16:00 hours each day.

HIGH STREET and MOAT LANE will be closed between 'Byway House' and 'Timbers'.

There will be no through access from the A28 to Stodmarsh Road via Fordwich.

The alternative route is via Fordwich Road, Water Lane, A28 Mill Road, Sturry Road, Tourtel Road, Military Road, Broad Street, Lower Bridge Street, A257 St George's Place, Lower Chantry Lane, Longport, St Martin's Hill, Littlebourne Road and Stodmarsh Road.

PIER AVENUE, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pier Avenue, Whitstable, on or after 22 April 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the north junction with Tankerton Road.

The alternative route is via Tankerton Road, Graystone Road and Marine Parade.

ROUGH COMMON ROAD, ROUGH COMMON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to complete the installation of a new Zebra Crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rough Common Road, Rough Common, Canterbury, on or after 27 April 2013 for up to 2 days, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours each day.

The road will be closed between the junctions with A290 Whitstable Road and Oaks Park.

There will be no access for through traffic between the A2 and Whitstable Road using this route.

The alternative route is via Rough Common Road, Palmers Cross Hill, A2050 Harbledown Bypass, London Road, A290 Whitstable Road, St Thomas' Hill and Whitstable Road.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

GREAT QUEEN STREET, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL GREAT QUEEN STREET, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

Because of access to carriageway boxes for cabling, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Great Queen Street Dartford, on or after 12th May 2013 for up to 1 Day between the hours of 09.30 and 15.30 or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with little Quen Street to the junction with East Hill.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions

The alternative route is via East Hill,St Albans Road and Little Queen Street.

TEMPLE HILL, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL TEMPLE HILL, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

Because of resurfaing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Temple Hill Dartford, on or after 9th May 2013 for up to 6 days between the hours of 19.00 and 05.00 or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Overy Street and Temple Hill Square.

The alternative route is via Mill Pond Road, A226 Home Gardens, East Hill, The Brent, St Vincents Road, Littlebrook Manor way, Henderson Drive and Trevithick Drive.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

ASH ROAD LEVEL CROSSING, ASH ROAD, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ash Road Level Crossing, Ash Road, Sandwich, on or after 12 May 2013 as shown in below.

Ash Road, Sandwich will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The planned closure is from Sunday 12 May 2013 at 00:30 hrs until Monday 13 May 2013 at 04:30 hrs.

The alternative route is via Ash Road, A256 Sandwich By-pass, A258 Deal Road, New Street, Cattle Market, Harnet Street, (High Street, The Chain and Galliard Street in reverse) and Strand Street.

RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the demolition of pedestrian bridges as part of the redevelopment of Discovery Park, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, on or after 10 May 2013 as shown below.

Ramsgate Road will be closed in the vicinity of Discovery Park (formerly Pfizer) with no through access between Monks Way and A256 Sandwich Bypass. Local access will remain from either direction up to the point of closure.

Closures are planned as follows

Friday 10 May at 18:00 hours through until Monday 13 May at 06:00 hours

Friday 17 May at 18:00 hours through until Monday 20 May at 06:00 hours

If weather prevents works going ahead on the above dates, the closures will be deferred to one or both of the following weekends - 24-27 May and 31 May - 3 June, for the same times.

The alternative through route is via Monks Way, A256 Sandwich Bypass and Ramsgate Road.

GRAMS ROAD, WALMER, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Grams Road, Walmer, Deal, on or after 23 April 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:00 and 17:00 hours each day.

The road will be closed between A258 Dover Rd and St Clare Road.

The alternative route is via A258 Dover Road, Granville Road, Liverpool Road and St Clare Road.

LOWER ROAD, RIVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Road, River, on or after 27 April 2013 for up to 2 days, between 08:30 hours and 17:00 hours each day.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Alkham Road and Minnis Lane.

The alternative route is via Crabble Hill, Crabble Road, Lewisham Road, Minnis Lane and Lower Road.

Waiting will be prohibited in Lewisham Road, River, on the former bus turning area on the southern side near the junction with Minnis Lane. This applies when the relevant signs and No Waiting cones are placed on site, between 07:30 hours and 17:30 hours on both days that works are carried out.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

DOVER STREET, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING & SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a new sewer connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dover Street, Maidstone, on or after 22 April 2013 for up to 8 days or until the works have been completed. The One Way Order will also be suspended to allow for access.

The road will be closed outside 38-40.

TERRACE ROAD, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to locate a buried valve to ensure that it is working, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Terrace Road, Maidstone, on or after 24 April 2013 for up to 7 working nights between 23:00hrs and 05:00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 9.

The alternative route is via A26 Tonbridge Road, B2246 Fountain Lane/Hermitage Lane, A20 London Road.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

CALGARY CRESCENT, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Calgary Crescent, Folkestone, on or after 25 April 2013 for up to 1 day, between 07.00 hours and 17.00 hours.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Beatty Road and Ivy Way.

The alternative route is via Beatty Road, Wood Avenue and Ivy Way.

DARBY ROAD (FOOTPATH), FOLKESTONE (RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to prohibit the pedestrian use of the footpath linking Darby Road with Foord Road North, Folkestone, on or after 6 May 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The footpath will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Darby Road, Darby Place, Guildhall Street North, Copthall Gardens, Grace Hill and Foord Road.

NEWCHURCH ROAD, NEWCHURCH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Newchurch Road, Newchurch, on or after 8 May 2013 for up to 3 days, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours each day.

The section of road to be closed is from Newchurch village (the junction with Newchurch Lane / Clarklands, per Google Maps) northwards to the junction with Honeywood Lane / Newchurch Road.

The alternative route is via The alternative route is via Newchurch Road, B2067 Ruckinge Road, Hamstreet Road, Ruckinge Road, Cock Lane, Marsh Road, A2070, Ashford Road and Newchurch Lane.

Further closures of up to 2 days will be needed within 2 weeks of the resurfacing, to re-align covers in the carriageway. This will be notified locally and signposted on site.

WENHAMS LANE, OLD ROMNEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of cabling works in connection with the forthcoming Solar Farm, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wenhams Lane, Old Romney, on or after 22 April 2013 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between with Ivychurch and the A259 using this route.

The alternative route is via A259 Rhee Wall, Brenzett Roundabout, A2070 Ashford Road, Ivychurch Road and Wenhams Lane.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE

MAIN ROAD, QUEENBOROUGH, SHEPPEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Main Road, Queenborough, Sheppey, on or after 27 April 2013 for up to 2 days, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours each day.

Main Road will be closed between the junctions with Rushenden Road and Castlemere Avenue.

The alternative route is via A249 Brielle Way, B2007 Whiteway Road, North Road and Railway Terrace.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

ST LUKE'S AVENUE, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of sewer repair works to replace manhole frames and covers in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Luke's Avenue, Ramsgate, planned to start on or after 22 April until 29 April 2013 inclusive, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between junctions of Holly Road and Dumpton Park Road.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Hollicondane Road, Margate Road, Boundary Road and Hardres Road

Westbound via Dane Crescent, Dumpton Park Road, College Road and Holly Road.

ROYAL ESPLANADE, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public during the launch of a fleet of new buses for the Thanet Loop route, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting westbound through traffic on Royal Esplanade, Ramsgate, on or after 10 May 2013, between 09:00 hours and 15:00 hours.

The westbound carriageway of Royal Esplanade will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via B2054 Grange Road, London Road, Pegwell Road and St Lawrence Avenue.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

CUCKOO LANE, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage and ditching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cuckoo Lane, Tonbridge, on or after 22 April 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Higham Lane, Ashes Lane, A26 Tonbridge Road.

HIGH STREET, EAST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a bridge strike monitoring system, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, East Malling, on or after 7 May 2013 for up to 2 nights between 22.00hrs and 05.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Chapel Street, Wateringbury Road, Red Hill, A26 Tonbridge Road, A228 Malling Road/Ashton Way, A20 London Road.

HIGH STREET, WEST MALLING, TONBRIDGE & MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is taking place on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
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an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, West Malling, between the entrance to the short stay car park (adj. 107 High Street) and the junction with Swan Street.

The Order will become effective on 28th April 2013 for the dates shown in schedule 1 below, between the hours of 6.00am to 3.00pm or until the time stated next to that date. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place for the durations of the events. Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The alternative route for High Street, West Malling will be via A228 Ashton Way, A20 London Road and Town Hill.

The purpose of the Order is to enable the Farmers Market, the Christmas lights switch on and the Coronation Celebration Party to take place.

For further information please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation on 08458 247 800.

Schedule 1

Sunday 28th April 2013	Sunday 27th October 2013
Sunday 26th May 2013	Sunday 24th November 2013 (until 8.00pm)
Saturday 1st June 2013 (until 10pm) & Sunday 2nd June 2013 (until 5pm)	Sunday 22nd December 2013
Sunday 23rd June 2013	Sunday 26th January 2014
Sunday 28th July 2013	Sunday 23rd February 2014
Sunday 25th August 2013	Sunday 23rd March 2014
Sunday 22nd September 2013	

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS

CULVERDEN PARK & CULVERDEN PARK ROAD (PROHIBITION OF PARKING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the development of the Kent & Sussex Hospital, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting parking on Culverden Park & Culverden Park Road on or after 6 May 2013 for up to 18 months or until the works have been completed.

The restriction will be between 08.00hrs and 18.00hrs - Monday to Saturday at the locations below.

Culverden Park - from the junction with Culverden Park Road, north side of the carriageway only, travelling westbound for a distance of 95m.

Culverden Park Road - from the junction with Culverden Park south east side of the carriageway only, for a distance of 100m.

HIGHWAYS - WEST KENT AREA

VARIOUS ROADS, WEST KENT (MICROSURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway microsurfacing treatment works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in West Kent, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after **22nd April 2013** for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below, in a Schedule listed in alphabetical order of District.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 7 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place. Dates will be advertised on information boards on each site 14 days in advance of commencement.

The roads in the schedule will need to be re-closed approximately 7 days after the original closure to carry out road sweeping, replacement of lines and to adjust manholes as required.

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

SCHEDULE

MAIDSTONE MICROSURFACING

CROSS STREET, MAIDSTONE - closed between Hardy Street and Peel Street.

22nd to 23rd April 2013 - 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Peel Street, John Street, Hardy Street, Fisher Street and Peel Street

NEW ROAD, OTHAM - Closed between A274 Sutton Road and Avery Lane.

26th and 29th April 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via A274 Sutton Road, Gore Court Road, White Horse Lane and Simmonds Lane

HONEY LANE, OTHAM - Avery Lane to White Horse Lane

26th and 29th April 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via New Road, A274 Sutton Road, Gore Court Road, White Horse Lane and Simmonds Lane

SIMMONDS LANE, OTHAM - Closed between Honey Lane and White Horse Lane

26th and 29th April 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via White Horse Lane and Honey Lane

HAMPSTEAD LANE, YALDING - closed between Level crossing at Yalding Station and B2015 Maidstone Road, Nettlestead Green

30th April to 1st May 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via B2015 Maidstone Road, Bow Road, A20 Tonbridge Road, B2163 Teston Lane, Smiths Hill, Yalding Hill, B2010 High Street, Yalding, B2162 Lees Road, Hampstead Lane

STATION ROAD, NETTLESTEAD GREEN - closed between B2162 Hampstead Lane and B2015 Maidstone Road, Nettlestead Green

30th April to 1st May 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Via B2015 Maidstone Road and B2162 Hampstead Lane

HUNT STREET, WEST FARLEIGH - closed between Smiths Hill and Bow Hill.

10th to 11th May 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via B2163 Smiths Hill, Teston Lane, A26 Tonbridge Road, B2015 Bow Road and Bow Hill

LOWER ROAD, WEST FARLEIGH - Closed from Teston Lane to Dean Street

12th to 16th May 2013 0900hrs to 1500hrs

Westbound traffic alternative route via Dean Street, Heath Road, Ewell Lane and Lower Road

Eastbound traffic alternative route via Teston Lane, A26 Tonbridge Road, Terrace Road, A20 London Road, A229 The Broadway, Fairmeadow, Bishops Terrace, Mill Street, Palace Avenue, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Sheals Crescent, B2010 Old Tovil Road, Tovil Road, Tovil Hill, Farleigh Hill, Dean Street

LOWER ROAD, WEST FARLEIGH - Closed from Ewell Lane to Teston Road

12th and 16th May 2013 0900hrs to 1500hrs

Alternative route via Ewell Lane, Heath Road, Dean Street and Lower Road

SMITHS HILL, WEST FARLEIGH - Closed from Ewell Lane to Shingle Barn Lane

17th and 20th May 2013 0900hrs to 1500hrs

Alternative route via B2163 Smiths Hill, Teston Lane, A20 Tonbridge Road, B2015 Bow Road, Maidstone Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane, Lees Road, Yalding High Street, Yalding Hill and Smiths Hill

PILGRIMS WAY, HARRIETSHAM & THURNHAM - closed between Hollingbourne Hill and The Street, Detling

31st May to 4th June 2013 (Including weekend) 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Hollingbourne Hill, Upper Street, Eyehorne Street, A20 Ashford Road, Roundwell, The Street, Bearsted, Ware Street, Hockers Lane and The Street, Detling

HAZEL STREET ROAD, HAZEL STREET NR HUCKING - closed between South Green Lane and Southlees Lane

5th to 6th June 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via South Green Lane and Southlees Lane

SOUTH GREEN LANE, SOUTH GREEN, NR HUCKING - closed between Rumstead Road and Hazel Street Road

5th to 6th June 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via South Green Lane, Southlees Lane and Hazel Street Road

TONBRIDGE & MALLING MICROSURFACING

PILGRIMS WAY, WOULDHAM - closed between Wouldham Road and Knowle Road

24th to 25th April 2013 - 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Wouldham Road, High Street Wouldham & Knowle Road

CHURCH ROAD, OFFHAM - Closed between The A20 London Road to a point 45m North of Church Farm

2nd May 2013 0930hrs to 1530hrs

Alternative Route via A20 London Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, Teston Road and Church Road

SANDY LANE, ADDINGTON - Closed between Ford Lane and St Vincent's Road Lane

2nd to 3rd May 2013 0930hrs to 1530hrs

Alternative Route via Ford Lane, A20 London Road & St Vincent's Lane

PLAXTOL LANE / CHURCH HILL, PLAXTOL - Closed between The A227 Ightham Road and the junction with The Street

7th to 8th May 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via A227 Ightham Road, Back Lane, Reeds lane & School Lane

BELTRING ROAD, EAST PECKHAM - Closed between The A228 Branbridges Road and the Beltring Halt

9th May 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via A228 Branbridges Road, Boyle Way, B2015 Maidstone Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane, Lees Road & Gravelly Ways

TUNBRIDGE WELLS MICROSURFACING

FIVE OAK GREEN ROAD, CROCKHURST STREET and TUDLEY LANE, FIVE OAK GREEN - Five Oak Green School to Postern Lane

2nd May to 8th May 2013 (no weekend working) 0900hrs to 1500hrs

Alternative route via B2017 Five Oak Green Road, A228 Maidstone Road (Colts Hill), A21 Pembury Road (HA), Castle Hill, Pembury Road, A26 off/on slip, A26 Woodgate Way and B2017 Five Oak Green Road. (And vice versa)

BRENCHLEY ROAD, HIGH STREET AND HORSMONDEN ROAD, BRENCHLEY - B2160 Maidstone Road, Matfield to Church Close

9th May to 12th May 2013 (Including weekend) 0900hrs to 1500hrs

Diversion via Brenchley Road, B2160, Maidstone Road, A21 (HA),

A262 Goudhurst Road, B2162 Lamberhurst Road, C50 Brenchley Road and Horsmonden Road

KNOWLE LANE, BRENCHLEY - Mile Oak Road to Knowle Road

13th May 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Knowle Road, Crook Road, Pixot Hill and Mile Oak Road

REGENT STREET, BENENDEN ROAD, ROLVENDEN ROAD and THE STREET, BENENDEN - A28 Rolvenden High Street to New Pond Road, Benenden

14th May to 24th May 2013 (Not weekends) 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via A28 Rolvenden High Street, Hastings Road, A268 Linkhill, Queen Street, Megrims Hill, Sponden Lane, Mill Street and New Pond Road

MOUNTS HILL, CRANBROOK ROAD and SWATTENDEN LANE - New Pond Road crossroads to A229 Hartley Road

24th May to 30th May 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Iden Green Road, Mill Street, Sponden Lane, A268 Megrims Hill, Rye Road A229 Cranbrook Road, Gills Green, Hawkhurst Road and Hartley Road

PENSHURST RD/BIDBOROUGH RIDGE, BIDBOROUGH - 50m east of j/w of Darnley Drive to Mill Court

31st May to 2nd June 2013 (Including weekend) 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via B2176 Penshurst Road, Hayesden Lane, Upper Hayesden Lane, Brook Street, A26 Quarry Hill, London Road and B2176 Bidborough Ridge

MOUNT EPHRAIM, TUNBRIDGE WELLS - A26 London Road to Major Yorks Road

16th September to 18th September, 2013 0900hrs to 1500hrs

Diversion via Major Yorks Road, A26 Eridge Road and A26 London Road

CLAREMONT GARDENS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS - Whole length

16th September 2013 0830hrs to 1500hrs

No diversion as this road is a cul-de-sac

FURNACE LANE, LAMBERHURST - Town Hill crossroads to County Boundary near Bayham Abbey entrance

19th September to 26th September 2013 (Not weekend) 0900hrs to 1500hrs

For this section only alternative route via B2100 Town Hill, High Street The Broadway, School Hill, A21, A21 Hastings Road, A264 Pembury Road, Bayham Road, Forest Road, B2169 Bayham Road and Furnace Lane

THE DOWN, LAMBERHURST - Spray Hill to Town Hill crossroads

19th September to 26th September 2013 (Not weekend) 0830hrs to 1730hrs

For this section only alternative route via Spray Hill, High Street, Town Hill and Furnace Lane

SAND ROAD, LAMBERHURST - The Down to Town Hill

19th September to 26th September 2013 (Not weekend) 0830hrs to 1730hrs

For this section only alternative route via The Down and Town Hill

ROGERS ROUGH ROAD, GOUDHURST - Lady Oak Lane to Church Road, Kilndown

26th to Saturday 28th September 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via B2079 Lady Oak Lane, Bedgebury Road, Peasley Lane and Ranters Lane

PRIORS HEATH, GOUDHURST - B2079 Lady Oak Lane to Roger's Rough Road

26th to Saturday 28th September 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via B2079 Lady Oak Lane, Bedgebury Road, Peasley Lane and Ranters Lane

CHICKS LANE, GOUDHURST - Rogers Rough Road to Church Road, Kilndown

26th to Saturday 28th September 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via Church Road, Kilndown, Ranters Lane, Peasley Lane, B2079 Bedgebury Road and Lady Oak Lane

LADY OAK LANE and BEDGEBURY ROAD, GOUDHURST - A21 to Balcombes Hill

Sunday 29th September to 4th October 2013 0900hrs to 1500hrs

Alternative route via Balcombes Hill, A262 West Road, Clayhill, Station Road, B2162 Lamberhurst Road, School Hill, The Broadway, Spray Hill and A21 London Road

DIG DOG LANE, FRITTENDEN - closed between C89 Frittenden Road and C146 Hareplain Road (At the Three Chimneys Public House)

7th to 9th October 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Hareplain Road, A262 Sissinghurst Road, The Street, Wilesley Pound, A229 Cranbrook Road and Frittenden Road

BUBHURST LANE, FRITTENDEN - closed for its whole length

10th to 11th October 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

(No alternative route as this is a no-through road)

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 21st April 2013

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056

WHO IS YOUR Gills Player of the Year?

IT HAS been a season to remember for so many reasons for Gillingham fans.

But who do you think deserves to be recognised as making the biggest contribution in helping the Gills to the top of League Two?

Having a team of winners to pick from does not make it any easier, so we have narrowed it down to five whom we feel have stood out during this campaign.

Now it is up to you to pick your favourite, and you can do so by voting on our website **www.kentnews.co.uk**.

Here is our top five:

ADAM BARRETT
Appearances: 45
Goals: 1
Adam Barrett has simply been a colossus at the back alongside Leon Legge in Gillingham's resolute defence. An honest, focused and experienced campaigner, the 33-year-old has marshalled the defence superbly as they have ground out results again and again.

MYLES WESTON
Appearances: 38
Goals: 7
It only took two minutes for winger Myles Weston to show what he was capable of on his debut, with a fine goal in the 3-1 win over Bradford City on the opening day of the season. He went on to score another six and proved to be a constant menace to the opposition, either in midfield, up front or as an impact sub; he stretched games and always made himself available for a pass. There is a reason Martin Allen refers to him as the "weapon of mass destruction".

DANNY KEDWELL
Appearances: 41
Goals: 15
What can you say about the Gills fan who nets the promotion-winning goal? Kedwell looks set to be the top-scorer for the second season running. A grafter and a target to aim at, he has led the line well and got the Gills off to a flying start with eight goals in his first 11 games.

DEON BURTON
Appearances: 42
Goals: 12
The veteran striker has added a classy touch to the Gills' forward line this season and lasted the pace impressively for a 36-year-old. With crucial goals and a cool head under pressure, Burton has proved a true poacher in converting half-chances, while weighing in with match-winners at home to Morecambe in the 90th minute and a double in the important 2-1 win at his former club Rotherham United.

MATT FISH
Appearances: 48
Goals: 3
The right-back has had a mightily impressive campaign after struggling to establish himself last season, having made the step up to professional football from Dover Athletic. Heavily involved in going forward, and reliable in defence, his winner against Accrington Stanley, a 30-yard left-footed effort that went in off the bar, will be remembered for a long time to come.

■ Cast your vote on our website at **www.kentnews.co.uk/sport** and we will reveal the winner in next week's paper.
*Appearances/goals before weekend's clash with Wimbledon.

Pictures: ADY KERRY

FOOTBALL

INVESTMENT: Ebbsfleet are in desperate need of help

■ Ebbsfleet United-owner MyFootballClub has come under increasing pressure this season, with dwindling membership causing cash-flow problems.

Since taking over in February 2008, membership has gone from about 32,000 to just over 1,000.

Last week a group opposed to MyFootballClub ownership was set up, called Fleet Against MyFC. It has so far gained 400 signatures supporting the movement.

Fan group The Fleet Trust has also voiced its concerns about the future of the club under MyFC.

Spanish investor eyes takeover of crisis club Ebbsfleet United

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

EBBSFLEET United fans have given a big vote of confidence to a Spanish consortium looking to take over the financially-troubled club.

With their relegation confirmed this month, and debts reportedly approaching the £100,000 mark, there is a real fear that the Fleet could be heading into administration this summer.

But in the last few weeks a businessman from the Canary Islands called Carlos Kabir Karani has held tentative talks with both the club board and the owner, internet membership group MyFootballClub.co.uk, which holds 75 per cent of the club.

On Wednesday this week fans group The Fleet Trust held an open meeting at the request of MyFC to see if fans supported Mr Karani's interest, which all but one of those in attendance did. They also voted unanimously against MyFC's suggestion that the trust buy £25,000 worth of its shares.

Mr Karani, 38, and four other investors are looking to buy out MyFC and then use the club as a development platform for talented young footballers from across Europe, principally Spain.

He claims that it would reduce the club's running costs, while its empty coffers would be boosted by increased sponsorship and commercial activities he is planning.

He told KOS Media that he had 12 years' experience of working in football as a scout, agent and coach, while he has also worked as an adviser to professional Spanish clubs including Levante and Tenerife.

He is currently director of the Kabir Foundation UK, an organisation helping young footballers find clubs.

"My best jobs have been as an adviser trying to rescue clubs from situations such as overspending on budgets," he said. "I have had many different businesses.

"My father has been one of the biggest businessmen in the Canary Islands. I come from an Indian family and I'm in charge of many businesses."

He said he and his group, which includes two family members, one an owner of a Danish investment company called Econet, had been looking to get a foothold in English football for a while and chose Fleet after seeing a plea from the club on the internet for a 'white knight' to invest.

"For the first three years we have got up to £300,000 [to invest] – after that we believe the club should be self-sustaining," he said.

"The main difference will be in the playing budget and different commercial and sponsorship activities we have planned."

Emily Connolly, vice-chairman of the Fleet Trust, said: "We are getting to the stage where the major consideration is whether we have a club next season or not.

"If we don't have £100,000 by the end of the month, there's a real possibility of administration. He's offering to put in money to clear the debts we have with creditors, and to pay the staff and players.

"One of his major things is to run the club with a mix of experienced English players and young players brought from his academies."

Jeff Hamnett, chairman from the MyFC society – effectively the MyFC board – confirmed that members had started a vote on whether to take forward its interest.

SPORTS SHORTS

BASKETBALL

Crusaders look for Nicol's successor

MEDWAY Park Crusaders are looking for a new head coach following the departure of Craig Nicol.

Nicol only took over last summer after James Vear moved on to a new job in Canada. Nicol guided the Gillingham-based side to ninth in the VCARS.co.uk Division One league this season, missing out on the play-offs by one point.

Club chairman Jesse Sazant said: "The conversations we have already had are very encouraging. We are confident the combination of the academy job and the opportunity to coach our men will attract a high-level suitable coach."

HOCKEY

Canterbury's Euro dreams are dashed

CANTERBURY have missed out on a place in European competition next season after a disappointing defeat to Reading in the third-place play-off.

Canterbury clinched their place in the end-of-season play-offs by finishing third in the regular season, but they had no answer to Reading, losing 4-0.

While it ended in disappointment, it was ultimately an impressive campaign for Canterbury, having returned to the Premier Division this year after relegation.

Reading went ahead in the 11th minute and added a second in the 62nd minute. The win was sealed with two late goals.

CYCLING

Cyclopark to host BMX Championship

GRAVESEND'S Cyclopark is hosting a leg of the British BMX Series for the first time next weekend.

The multi-million-pound cycling venue on the outskirts of Gravesend has kilometres of cycle paths and a new BMX track.

The second and third rounds of the series take place at Cyclopark on Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28.

The event is open to males and females, from those aged six up to veterans of 40+, and elite riders.

For more information about entry and times, you can visit www.cyclopark.com.

FOOTBALL

Frampton not thinking about his Gills future

Utility man is not done with his career just yet as he looks to carry on riding the Gills roller-coaster. He tells **Greg Miles** about his season.

ANDY Frampton insists that he has given no thought to his Gillingham future as his contract with the club heads to its end this summer.

The 33-year-old, signed by former boss and now director of football Andy Hessenthaler, has made 30 appearances this season in Martin Allen's promotion-winning side.

But his contract, along with those of veteran striker Deon Burton and left-back Joe Martin, is up in the summer.

Frampton admitted it had been a roller-coaster ride at Priestfield in his two years with the club, but he is pleased to have achieved the first promotion of his career.

"It's been fantastic," he said. "It's one of those things you come to the club and set the target for, and we've got the promotion we wanted.

"It's been quite a roller-coaster, but it's ended up how I wanted it to end from when I signed my contract. I always had that feeling we would be there or thereabouts."

With the Gills gunning for the title this weekend at home to AFC Wimbledon, he has put any thoughts about his future at the club on hold.

"We haven't even gone down that road yet," he said. "The focus is on these games. We will sit down at the end of the season and talk about it then.

"There's no point getting worked up or worried about it now. Things chop and change very quickly."

The former Gills skipper has played along the back four throughout his career but has found himself as the anchor man in midfield more often than not this term, and it is a role in which he feels comfortable.

"I've enjoyed it a lot," he said. "Throughout my career I've chopped and changed my position and filled in. This year has been no different and I've been part of a winning team.

"If that continues, I will enjoy it. I've enjoyed the challenge that comes with playing in that role.

"I don't think I've got a best position. I play in a position for the team, wherever it may be. I go out and give 100 per cent every time I'm on the pitch."

Picture: ADY KERRY

HANDYMAN: Andy Frampton is always flexible

The former Crystal Palace defender has, though, given thought to his future off the pitch, having completed some of his coaching badges.

"I feel like I've got a few years left in my legs. The way I look after myself, I think that's the case," he said. "I've done my level two and just completed my level three, which is the UEFA B."

Gillingham boss Allen is confident that his squad is more than capable of making the step up to League One next season.

A large number of players have already performed at that level, with Charlie Lee and Chris Whelpdale winning promotion from it with Peterborough United, while Frampton, Burton, Stuart Nelson and Adam Barrett have spent the majority of their careers in League One.

Allen said that the players would be told their futures a week after the final game of the season at Burton Albion.

"We play Burton, then we have got the function and the small trip [to Benidorm]), then we will meet up," he said. "I know what I'm doing. If I don't know what I'm doing now, Gordon Bennett, something's massively wrong!

"All I do know is, we will do well next year, for sure. I don't know what the gap is. All this lot can go and play above, there's no doubt about that.

"Most of them have done it anyway, and the ones on the way up are on the way up anyway.

"Next year it won't be any different. There are some big boys coming down. We will look and improve our squad."

He praised his side's steady if not spectacular performances during the past two months as they edged towards promotion.

"It's been quite remarkable for the players to keep going like they have," he said. "Good players have got injured, we've had to bring in new players.

"There's been a few weeks where we haven't played so well, but we've stayed top.

"It's a marathon we're on. They just keep going. That's probably down to the recruitment of the characters and personalities we've got involved. There were a couple of games where the supporters weren't happy.

"But if you've had steak and chips most of the season and then serve up pie and mash, it's not going to great, is it?"

MOTORSPORT

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

PROGRESS: Matt Jackson wants form of 2012

Lessons learned for Airwaves duo ahead of second round of BTCC

AIRWAVES Racing driver Mat Jackson is hoping for a repeat of the performance that saw him win twice at Donington Park last year when the British Touring Car Championship heads north this weekend.

Jackson and Airwaves Racing had a difficult start to the year at their home Brands Hatch track in the opening round, but Jackson hopes to improve when it heads to Donington.

"Brands Hatch was particularly tough and not the start that we were hoping for at all," he said. "We've made some big improvements to the NGTC in the weeks since and the testing has helped iron out the reliability issues we were struggling with.

"Donington is a track that we've done well at in the past. We picked up our first race win there last season, so hopefully with the progress we've made we can bounce back and get our 2013 campaign off to a proper start this weekend."

His team-mate, Irishman Aron Smith, feels they can improve on the opening round after doing a lot of work on the car.

"We got the chance to go away to test and play with the car – something we weren't really able to do before the opening round, mainly due to the weather," he said. "So now we're heading to Donington with a completely different car and one that does what we want it to do.

"We've definitely made a big breakthrough with the set-up, so that should transpire into better results and I'm confident that we'll be in a much stronger position to really challenge at the front this weekend."

Live coverage of Sunday's events will be on ITV4 from 11am-6pm.

GOLF

Bennett eyes European Tour card

ASHFORD golfer Warren Bennett is plotting a return to the European Tour after finishing top of the PGA EuroPro qualifying school.

The 41-year-old, who won the Scottish PGA Championship in 1999, retired his European Tour card 10 years ago after a series of injuries, but he is hoping to work his way back up.

He has gone some way to doing that after finishing top of the EuroPro Tour qualifying school this week with 17 under par from 54 holes at the Frilford Heath Golf Club in Oxfordshire.

"I have the will to want to try and get back to the European Tour," he said. "When I stepped away from golf I missed it too much, so I decided last year to make a good plan to try to get back. It was a massive disappointment not to get my card at European Tour Qualifying at the end of last year, so it has been a long winter, but I'm on the right lines.

"I don't have any routes towards the main tour, so this year my minimum aim is to get into the EuroPro Tour top five to earn my Challenge Tour card.

"I want to get as much competitive golf in as possible. My second round here was lovely, the ball-striking, the putting – it felt really good and it was the first time in 15 years I have really gone out there and performed.

"The final round was a bit scrappy, but I got the job done and I'm feeling really good, so onward and upward hopefully."

WIN: Bennett is feeling on form

FOOTBALL

Stones reward Saunders with deal

JAY Saunders has been given a contract extension to stay as manager of Maidstone United next season.

The 34-year-old took over on a caretaker basis towards the end of the 2010/11 season and was given the job on a rolling contract.

However, now he has been given a permanent contract for next season, which the Stones hope will be in the Ryman Premier, with the club fighting it out with Dulwich Hamlet for promotion from Ryman One South.

Saunders said: "I'm pleased to get that confirmation and delighted to be given the chance to carry on. It's especially important at this time of the season when you need to start planning and speaking to players.

"It's been a great season and we are right up there challenging for the championship.

"This announcement will give peace of mind to the players – they know what I think about them and the majority of them are players I've brought in during my time as manager.

"I've enjoyed working with Steve Ward and John Brook, too, and now we can look ahead to the future."

Club co-owner Terry Casey said: "In Jay Saunders we have got one of the best young managers around.

"His commitment, energy and enthusiasm for Maidstone United is first-class and we wanted to reward that with the offer of another season with us."

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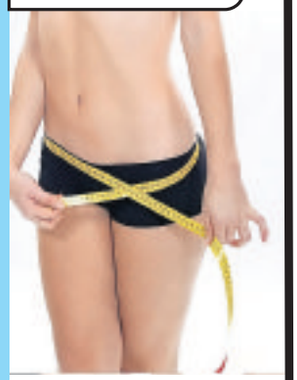

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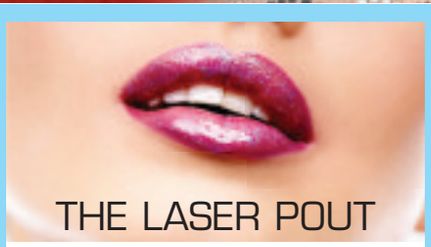

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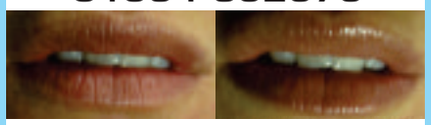

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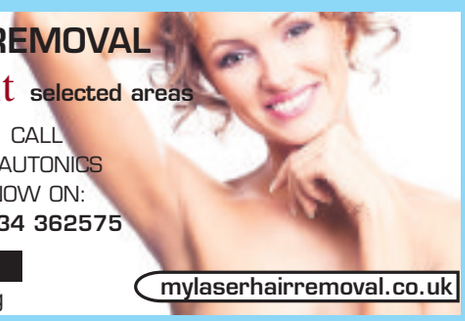

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